

Mss.

A Secretary of Puerto Rico.

Y13 Correspondence, 22 May 1913-

62 3 March 1917.

The Filson Historical Society

Mi querido Señor Travieso;

^{Puesto}
~~que~~ que el Bill Jones, en virtud del cual
queda suprimido su cargo de Secretario de Puerto Rico,
ha sido ^{ya} firmado por el Presidente, deseo expresar a Vd.
el pesar sincero que siento ^{al} tener que renunciar a ~~los~~ sus
buenos servicios en ^{favor} ~~beneficio~~ del pueblo de Puerto Rico,
así como también ^a mi asociación con Vd. en ~~la~~ ^{la labor gubernativa} ~~obra del~~
~~gobierno~~

^{Se'}
~~Entiendo~~ perfectamente que Vd. ^{había previsto} ~~se lo anticipado~~
^{hace} ~~hacia~~ ~~Anteriormente~~ ^{el resultado,}
~~por~~ mucho tiempo ~~este conocimiento~~ y que Vd. ha traba-
jado fielmente conmigo y otros para conseguir la aproba-
ción de la nueva Ley orgánica con completo conocimiento
del resultado que había de tener sobre Vd. personalmente.
No obstante, es con verdadero sentimiento que me veo obli-
gado a renunciar a su participación y cooperación en el
gobierno de la isla.

Le aseguro a Vd. que aprecio su carácter, leal-
tat y capacidad, su devoción a los verdaderos intereses
de su país según Vd. los ha entendido, y espero que pronto
llegue el momento en que el Gobierno pueda otra vez apro-
vechar el beneficio de sus servicios personales.

Dando a Vd. la seguridad de mi personal estimación
y amistad y de mi constante interés en su futuro bienestar,
quedo de Vd.

Sinceramente su amigo,

Office of the Governor of P.R.

TRANSLATION OF CABLEGRAM RECEIVED

May 22, 1913.

Confidential: Luis Muñoz Rivera and José de Diego anxious
Travieso should continue President of the Executive Council
in view of the fact that without approval of Luis Muñoz
Rivera, Luis Sanchez Morales would probably not have been
nominated, still Travieso represents majority party. Believe
they should be gratified in their desire.

Mc Intyre.

Office of the Governor of Porto Rico.

TRANSLATION OF CABLEGRAM SENT

May 29, 1913.

SECWAR. Referring to telegram from your office of 22nd instant, am unable to say who will be elected President of Council. Travieso's services very satisfactory but he was elected Acting President with understanding that he was to be Temporary President only until Sanchez or other Republican was reappointed. Doubt is Luis Muñoz Rivera and José de Diego would urge Travieso if they understood circumstances.

COLTON.

86 x 11

Translation of cablegram sent

November 24, 1913.

Secretary of War,

Washington.

Referring to telegram from your office of 22nd, text words named read: Glen Edwards, address Mawah, via Cragmere, New Jersey. (Paragraph)

Mrs. L. D. Powell, 1017-22nd Avenue, Meridian, Mississippi: Arrange to leave New Orleans January 1st. Letters. Dabney.

The following resolution adopted November 22nd.
"Be it resolved by the Convention: That the Unionist party reiterates its most absolute confidence in the National Democratic Party and in the good faith with which it will apply the principles laid down at the Democratic Convention of Kansas City, upon the occupation of Porto Rico by the American Government. The Convention sends its respects to President Wilson and entreats him to include in some message to the next Congress a frank recommendation of home rule for Porto Rico."

Cablegram number 18, November 24, 1913.

Confidential: It is very important both to me and to the Insular Government that Carrel should not leave the Island now. We can not legally do naything to remedy this, here. Could he not with the President's consent, withdraw his resignation? If not, could not the President be persuaded to reappoint him. I would recommend either course, preferably the first. Letter follows, but ~~like~~ the matter requires prompt action. If this were done, he would stay at least six months longer.

Cablegram sent November 24, 1913, number 18.

McIntyre: Am sailing December 3rd. Telegraph E. J.

Emerick, Columbus, Ohio, and ask him if he expects to meet me in New York. Confidential: Governor Yager asks that I remain here a few months longer which I am willing to do providing am successful in arrangement of some personal matters I expect to make upon arrival in ^{the} United States. If President wishes me to stay I hope he will see his way clear to reappoint as withdrawal of resignation would be distasteful and acceptable only in event reappointment would cause him embarrassment. Carrel
Yager.

It is very important both to me
and to the Insular Government that
Carrel should not leave the Island
now. We cannot legally do anything
to remedy this here. Could he not,
with the President's consent, withdraw
his resignation? - If not, couldn't
the President be persuaded to reappoint
him? I would ~~not~~ recommend
either course, preferably the first.

Letter follows, but the matter requires
~~need~~ prompt action. If this were
done he would stay at least six
months longer.

A. Yager

Confidential

It is very important both to me and to the

dyhis jojal jaguk cygos pavex kekup boluh
Insular Government that Carrel should not leave the
parut jigym hijew nyseu ragoh netot jysar
Island now. We can not legally do anything
pamel johum kyhik putis debek jygov galew bujes
to remedy this here. Could he not with the
pavex monch pareq huler fekov pywup pamel
President's consent, withdraw his resignation?

lycat fabuf pyzik hycib mumad
If not, could not the President be persuaded
jabep fekyr lyceh coces locib pavex
to reappoint him. I would recommend either course
newol hybez ^{lulak} sukab samil mimyn gicax
preferably the first. Letter follows, but the matter
ficeg lulak hadaw jyzak hahym dadat
requires prompt action. If this were done, he
kejix moxip mansah bedok jabab pareq puwoy
would stay at least six months longer. Yager.
gecin ramoc nosuz jyzul kohah kafyl ~~Yager~~

May 6, 1914.

Hon. Martin Travieso, Jr.,
c/o Señor Fernando Travieso,
Rambla de Cataluña, N° 8,
Barcelona, Spain.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to say that it may become necessary for the President to appoint a Secretary of Porto Rico sometime in the next month or two owing to the fact that Mr. Carrel is going away within the next few days, and also owing to the fact that it seems now likely that there will be more delay in passing the new organic bill for Porto Rico than we had expected.

You had told me that you desired to be considered an applicant for this position. As you have left the Island for an extended trip abroad, do you still desire to be considered available and could you return promptly to Porto Rico to take up the duties in case you should be appointed?

I suppose you know that the new organic act will abolish the office of Secretary of Porto Rico; and I think I should state, that while it seems now rather unlikely that the new act will be passed at this session of Congress, President Wilson promised me that he would attempt himself to secure its passage early in the next session, if it should not pass at this session, so that

this office may possibly be abolished within a year. I am not sure, however, but that this contingency may make the position still more attractive to you.

Of course I should add that in writing you at this time I do not mean to commit either myself or anybody else to any definite decision in the matter, but simply to learn if we could possibly secure your services in this position if under all the circumstances it should seem to be the best thing for the Government and the Island.

I hope that you and Mrs. Travieso and your party are having most delightful experiences upon this trip. With best wishes for you and with sincere regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

Governor.

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

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Barcelona, May 26, 1914.

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

Dear Sir:

I had the honor of receiving your letter of the 6th instant.

Replying to your question, as to whether I would accept the appointment as Secretary of Porto Rico, in case I should be appointed, I beg to say that I have always thought that it would be my duty to accept such an appointment. If the President believes that I can be of service to the Government and to my people in the office of Secretary of Porto Rico, I am ready to take my place and to do my duty.

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I expect to return to Porto Rico, about the middle of September, but if necessary I could hasten my return and go by way of New York, so as to be in San Juan in August. If I am appointed you can cable me in case of my brother, who will advise me wherever I may be.

We are leaving for Paris to-morrow; and from there we will visit Brussels, The Hague, Berlin, Vienna, Italy, Switzerland and England. We are enjoying our trip very much.

I sincerely hope that both Mrs Yager and yourself are in good health, and with my sincere regards, I am,

Respectfully and sincerely yours,
Martin Francisco Jr.



HOTEL ROYAL
ROME

July 15, 1917

My dear Governor:

Before leaving Barcelona I wrote you in response to your letter, wherein you asked me if I desired to be considered as a candidate for the office of Secretary. I said that I was ready to accept the appointment, if the same was offered to me.

I am absolutely without news about this matter, although I know that Mr. Canal left for the United States on leave of absence.

I would appreciate it very much if you kindly write me a line in reference to the matter, as I desire to know what the probabilities are. I suppose that some opposition will be made by

those persons whom I mentioned to you when I saw you some time ago. This does not trouble me in the least, because I would rather get the appointment without their recommendation.

I hope you will pardon me for taking your time about a matter which is perhaps too personal.

We are enjoying our visit to Italy immensely, and I am getting all the benefit of a long needed rest.

With my best wishes for your good health, believe me to be,

Sincerely and respectfully yours,
Martin Francisco, Jr.

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

San Juan, August 5, 1914.

My dear Mr. Travieso:

Your letter of the 15th ultimo reached me only two or three days ago. The mails are very slow and now that we are having war I fear they will be slower still.

Some two or three weeks ago I recommended you at Washington for appointment as Secretary of Porto Rico. I do not know when the appointment will be made, but I was planning to cable you through your brother's address in Barcelona as soon as the appointment is made and ask you to come back and take up the work. Now that the war is upon us, I am wondering whether there is any certainty as to your being able to get back, but I hope you can manage it promptly when called upon, perhaps on the Spanish boat.

I am very glad to learn that you are having an enjoyable trip in Italy. We are, of course, very much excited over the tremendous events that are happening in Europe, all the more so because our opportunities for accurate information are rather limited. I trust that these events will not interfere with your plans.

With best wishes for your and Mrs. Travieso, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Martin Travieso, Jr.,

Hotel Royal,

Rome, Italy.

Governor.

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Barcelona, August 17, 1914

My dear Governor:

I received last night your cablegrams, advising me that I had been recommended for Secretary a few weeks ago, and that the appointment would likely be made soon. I also received another from my partner, Mr. Oriate, informing me that you desired me to return to Porto Rico this month.

I am cabling you that I will sail from here on the 10th of September, such being the first and only opportunity. There is a steamer sailing to-morrow, and carrying this letter, but I was unable to get passage there being a great number of people going home on account of the war.

It is impossible to go now to Paris and then to London so as to sail by way of

New York. I returned here from Paris a week ago and my wife and myself were for three days and three nights in a train crowded with all sort of passengers, and undergoing all kind of troubles. I could not make the same trip again with her, and with my mother, who is an invalid. The first boat available is the "Buenos Aires", sailing from here on September 10th, and I have already my passages for myself and family. I am very anxious to be at home, and I assure you that if there is an opportunity of reaching it sooner, I will not let it go by.

The foreigners in Europe are meeting with great difficulty to get money, as there is not a single bank willing to cash checks or to honor letters of credit. I received a thousand dollars in a check of the American Colonial Bank in Muller, Schall & Co. of New York and I have been unable to cash it. Fortuna, my

my letter of credit is not exhausted and I have just enough money to take me home.

I thank you very much for your kindness in cabling me and for recommending me for the office of secretary.

With my best wishes and hoping to see you soon, I am

Very sincerely and respectfully yours
Martin Frances Jr

March 12, 1915.

My dear Mr. Travieso:

With reference to the appropriation for the support of the Executive Mansion, I desire to state that the appropriation for the current year was \$10,000, having been reduced to this figure from \$14,000 which was the amount appropriated for the year 1913-14.

Of the \$10,000 appropriated for this year, there had been expended up to March 1, \$7,541.61; and there was left of the appropriation only \$2,455.39. This means that the expenses have been running this year at a rate of about \$243 per month, and at this rate the fund will be about \$1,317 short at the end of the fiscal year.

It must be borne in mind that this fund has to carry the entire expense not only of the Fortaleza but also of the cottage at Jájome and garden at Rio Piedras. The Fortaleza is a large, quaint, rambling building, constantly in need of repairs to preserve it, and its prominence as the seat of the government and as a point of interest for tourists and visitors, makes it necessary that it should be kept in good condition and present an attractive appearance commensu-

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rate with its history and dignity. The expenses have been managed as carefully and moderately as possible this year, and the payroll has been reduced by several hundred dollars; but experience shows that it will be quite impossible to manage this expense with any less sum than \$10,000.

Very respectfully,

Governor.

Honorable Martin Trujillo, Jr.

Executive Council,

San Juan, Porto Rico.

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 Martin Travieso, Jr.,
Secretary of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

April 27, 1915.

My dear Mr. President:-

Though personally a stranger to you, I am taking the liberty to introduce my friend the Honorable Martin Travieso, Jr., Secretary of Porto Rico, who will hand you this note.

Mr. Travieso is visiting Havana and of course would be greatly pleased to have the honor of a personal interview with the distinguished President of the Republic of Cuba and extend to you the greetings of the Island of Porto Rico.

Any courtesies that it may be convenient for you to show Mr. Travieso will be greatly appreciated and cordially reciprocated should any opportunity arise.

With the highest respect, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

General Mario G. Menocal,

President of the Cuban Republic,

Havana, Cuba.

May 5, 1915.

My dear Mr. Travieso:-

We received your cablegram announcing your safe arrival and communicated the same to Mrs. Travieso.

My information is that Mr. Iglesias is still here in Porto Rico, so I suppose he will not himself appear at the hearing May 8. Of course you know I shall be glad to get information as to what takes place at this hearing as soon as you can conveniently send it to me.

Everything seems to be quiet and going on as usual. I hope that you and Mr. Bills will have no difficulty in making perfectly clear to the Commission on Industrial Relations the attitude and policy of the Government with reference to the laborers of Porto Rico in general and to the strikers in the late strike in particular.

There is no news. With best wishes, I

am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable Martin Travieso, Jr.,
Secretary of Porto Rico,
c/o Bureau of Insular Affairs,
Washington, D. C.



May 7. 1915.

My dear Governor:

I had a very quiet and uneventful trip, and arrived here early last Monday morning.

It was my intention to have gone to Washington yesterday, but the day after my arrival I received a letter from Gen. Mc Dintyre informing me that the hearing before the Commission on Industrial Relations has been postponed until the 19th of May. I was very glad to hear of such postponement because it will give me further time to

prepare myself for the presentation of our side of the case. I am fully confident that I will be able to show to the Commission that every step taken by you during the recent strike was in accordance with law and necessary for the protection of the lives and properties of the citizens of the Island.

I will leave for Washington on the 16th so as to have two days for conferences with Gen. Mc. Intyre and the Secretary of War.

When you write to your children inform them of my presence in this

Country and let them know that it will be a great pleasure for me to be able to serve them in any way.

Kindly present my respects to Mrs. Yager and her mother, and with my best regards believe me to be,

Most sincerely yours

Martin Francisco

May 14, 1915.

My dear Mr. Travieso:-

I was pleased to get your kind note of May 7.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs had already notified me that the hearing had been postponed to May 19; but I am glad to know you are apprised of it and are getting ready to be in Washington on that day so as to represent the Government and the people of Porto Rico in their hearing, for I am sure that Mr. Iglesias means to slander not only the Government but the entire people of the Island.

I thank you for your kind offer of assistance to my children who are coming down to Porto Rico next month. The plan is for my oldest boy who is studying at Baltimore, to come down promptly on the close of his work about the last of May or the 1st of June. My daughter, Miss Diana, and my other boy will come together on the "Caracas" leaving New York June 16. If you should happen to be on either boat at the same time as any of them, I am sure they would greatly enjoy getting better acquainted with you, and you might be able to aid them on the trip.

I suppose you will probably be coming back about the first of the month. All is well here in the Government and the Island is quiet.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable Martin Travieso, Jr.,
Secretary of Porto Rico,
c/o Bureau of Insular Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
PORTO RICO

San Juan, September 15, 1915.

My dear Governor:-

Nothing unusual has happened worth mentioning since your departure last Saturday. The only thing that has been brought to my attention is the difficult situation in which the school authorities find themselves at this moment when the high schools are about to be opened. As you know the budget for this year contains no appropriation for the purchase of books and supplies for students in the high and continuation schools of the Island. Furthermore the budget provides that the said books must be bought by the pupils themselves. It appears that a great number of students claim that they are poor and unable to buy the books. A great many letters of protest have come to this office and also to the Department of Education, and they even go to the extreme of threatening to have another school strike unless provision is made for the purchase of books for the poor children. A transfer has been asked by several people to be made from other appropriations in the budget. I took up the matter with Mr. Miller and we both came to the conclusion that it would be inadvisable to make any such transfer because we might be charged later with having done something contrary to the will of the Legislature which was that the children should buy books for themselves.

I do not wish to take the position of not doing anything

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to meet the situation and in order to do something I have called today to this office five prominent citizens, whom I know to take interest in social matters, and I intend to appoint them as a committee to take up a collection, which I will head, for the purpose of providing school books for such children as in the opinion of said committee are absolutely unable to buy the books required by the school. Mr. Miller thinks that this is a good idea and if we are successful at San Juan, the idea will probably be taken up by other cities having high schools and thus we will arrive at a satisfactory solution of the matter avoiding further troubles.

In going through the papers left by you at the desk, I found several papers which I believe require your personal attention and which I am taking the liberty of enclosing in order that you may do what you think best. Everything else is now up-to-date and the machinery of the government is running smoothly. I hope that all of you had a good voyage, will enjoy your vacation and return to this Island in the best of health.

Very faithfully yours,

Martin Francisco Jr.

P. S.:- I am enclosing herewith a letter from Mr. Hull, in which he refers to several matters which may be of interest to you.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
c/o Bureau of Insular Affairs,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Encls.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
PORTO RICO

September 25, 1915.

Hon. Arthur Yager,

Georgetown, Ky.

My dear Governor:-

You will notice that I am writing to you from Jajome, where I have come with Mrs Travieso to spend Saturday and Sunday and to get away for a couple of days from the large number of people that not finding me at the Fortaleza would go to find me at my home should I remain there.

I set aside a few pleasant things to do up here and first of all is that of acknowledging receipt of your very kind letter written on board of the steamer. It was indeed a pleasure to hear that you were having a delightful voyage, which I hope was delightful up to the end.

In accordance with your desires I have directed Pedro to send a complete collection of El Tiempo, published since you left, and also the cards you desire.

I have some news that will interest you. It seems that after your interview with Mr. de Diego and Mr. Coll y Cuchi on the evening before your departure, Mr. Coll told his friends about the substance of the interview, which as you remember had for its object to try to make you believe that the campaign of Mr. de Diego in Santo Domingo and Cuba had nothing to do with the independence of the Island, and that the Speaker was the most loyal, faithful and true citizen living under the folds of the national flag. The news released by Mr. Coll spread like fire all over the town City and on the following Monday "El Tiempo" printed the news that the Libertador had hauled down the flag of independence at La Fortaleza, informing the Governor that the Union de las Antillas was not a political organization which contemplated the independence of the Island, but a purely literary society, intended to strengthen the ties of friendship between the three Islands. This he has not denied up to the present time, and his silence has been taken as an admission of the truth of the report.

The convention for the organization of the Union Antillana in this Island was announced for and was held on the

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evening of the 22nd instant, in the halls of the Ateneo. I have been informed by friends who were present that the movement has resulted in a complete failure. There were present at the convention several men, like Dr. Figueroa, Dr. Zeno Gandía, Iriarte and others who went there for the express purpose of compelling Mr. de Diego to state publicly that the main purpose of the association was to work for the independence of the Island. It seems that after very strenuous efforts were made by those gentlemen, and when they had him completely cornered, the great statesman stated that he was the only one who knew about the work done in Cuba and Santo Domingo for the independence of Porto Rico, because he was the only representative from Porto Rico present at the many secret interviews held by him with men like Alfredo Zayas, former Vice-President of Cuba, Gen. Sanguili, Gen. Varona, Gen. Juan Gualberto Gomez and others. He did not reveal what those secret plans were, and I have been informed that it is absolutely false that such secret conferences were ever held.

On the very same evening of the convention Mr. Muñoz published in La Democracia a letter addressed by him to Mr. de Diego, in which he states that he will not go to the convention; that he is unwilling to join the Union Antillana, if the said association has been formed for purely non-political purposes. He further states that if the association is formed for the purpose of working for the immediate independence of the Island, then he must decline the invitation for the reason that the platform of the Unionist Party compels him to work for a form of self government for the Island and for nothing else.

It seems that Mr. Richardson has written to his friends here about his resignation. There are already two candidates for the vacant position, Mr. Noah Shepard, Chief of the Bureau of Property Tax and Mr. Charles E. Hill, Acting Treasurer.

I have nothing to say against either of the two candidates, both of which are as far as I know good, honest and hard working men. I have been requested by friends of both to endorse them for the office of Treasurer. It is not my desire to do so, for I believe that although either of them would have the necessary qualifications for the routine work of the office, I do not know whether they are qualified for the higher and most important work in the Executive Council and as one of the advisers of the Governor in financial problems. I believe that we need a bigger man for that office.

Mr. Shepard came to see me personally to request my endorsement. I told him that my recommendation would be first for a porto-rican and then for a resident american. After

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my interview with Mr. Shepard, and while I was in Ponce at the inauguration of the new Telephone Exchange, I was shown a sort of a circular letter addressed by Mateo Fajardo to his ~~friends~~ friends, asking them to endorse the application of Mr. Shepard, who some years ago was an internal revenue agent at Mayaguez. I do not suppose that Mr. Fajardo is doing this on his own initiative, and I presume that Mr. Shepard, who is busy getting letters from everybody, has made the great mistake of getting such letters from a man who has been convicted of defrauding the Government and who is still awaiting trial on a bribery charge. Such a lack of tact on his part is in my opinion sufficient to disqualify him for the office. It has been sufficient to lead me to believe that the appointment of Mr. Shepard under such circumstances would be most unfortunate. I dislike very much to be writing these things, but I believe it is my duty to bring these facts to your notice.

I have undertaken the clearing up of the situation at Camuy. I sent for the Municipal Judge, had a talk with him and he readily signed his resignation. To complete the work I ordered Shanton to remove or rather to transfer to some other place the District Chief and all the guardsmen at Camuy. We will soon be operating with a new Judge and new police force, all of which will be properly instructed to keep out of local petty politics.

I accepted the resignation of the Justice of the Peace at Juncos and I am sending there Mr. Frank Carreras, a young man who has been for sometime as Justice of the Peace at Gurabo and who I am sure will not allow Mr. Iglesias nor the political bosses to control his actions.

Pardon me for making this letter so long, but there is another matter about which I desire to inform you before I close. When I testified before the Commission on Industrial relations, the Chairman asked me if any action had been taken by the Government against policeman Quiles, charged with the killing of a man at Ponce. I replied that I was informed that an information had been filed against Quiles. He then asked me if it was true, as charged by Mr. Iglesias, that Quiles was still in active service as a policeman. My answer was that I was not informed as to that, but that I was sure that the man was not in active service, because the government would not allow such a thing after the filing of an information. Nothing further was said about the matter, and I never thought again of it until recent events have brought it to my attention. The real fact is that Quiles has been all the time in active service, even though he is awaiting trial on a charge of homicide. A few days ago, and while arresting a fugitive, Quiles

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was compelled to subdue him by force and to club him. This brought him into prominence once more. The Unión Obrera, Mr. Aybar's newspaper published an article in which they refer to my testimony before the Industrial Commission; they state that my convictions evidently are that a man subject to such an indictment should not be in active service, and they end by requesting the suspension of Quiles pending his trial. I have been thinking about this situation very carefully, and I really believe that something must be done to clear the atmosphere. I doubt if we could successfully maintain as a good policy that of maintaining in active service as a police officer and as an employee of the People of Porto Rico a man against whom an information for homicide has been filed by the People of Porto Rico. I have been trying to find a solution for this difficult situation, without appearing as yielding to the campaign of the Federation of Labor or as criticising in any way what was done before. I finally took action which I believe will accomplish the purpose. I instructed Chief Shanton to grant Quiles 60 days leave of absence and to order him to spend those days outside of Ponce. This will be quietly done and Quiles case will not be affected by any action that we might take against him. I hope this solution will be satisfactory to you, and I assure you that my action in this matter as well as in everything else is inspired by the desire to do what I believe you would have done under the circumstances.

I sincerely hope that you are all enjoying the vacation and that you will soon be back in the Island in better health.

Mrs. Travieso joins me in sending her best wishes and regards for all of you, and you may feel sure of the sincere devotion of

Your faithful friend,

Martin Travieso Jr.

Referring again to the Treasurer's office, I wish to say in justice to Mr. Hill, that I believe that of the Americans residing here he seems to me to be the best fitted for that office. M. T. Jr.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
PORTO RICO

San Juan, September 29, 1915.

My dear Governor:-

For your information, I am enclosing a statement of expenses of the Porto Rico Coffee Exhibit at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, from April 24, 1913 to the 20th instant. You will see from those figures that the amount left for keeping up the Exhibit is \$3,153.69. I desire to bring this to your attention at this time because if the Exhibit is kept up much longer the day will come when the funds will be exhausted and then it will have to be maintained from the funds at the disposal of the Governor. And I do not know whether it is your intention to use your funds for such purpose.

My personal opinion regarding the Coffee Exhibit is that we should not keep it open after the 1st of November.

Very sincerely yours,

Martin Trajano Jr.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
c/o Bureau of Insular Affairs,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

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From Mr. Corcoran

STATEMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE "PORTO RICO
COFFEE EXHIBIT" AT PANAMA -PACIFIC IN-
TERNATIONAL EXPOSITION, SAN FRANCIS-
CO, CALIFORNIA, FROM APRIL 24, '13
TO SEPTEMBER 20, 1915.

Expenses of Commission.....	1,427.75	
Traveling Expenses.....	1,231.17	
Freight and Express.....	392.73	
Salaries.....	1,900.00	
Per Diems.....	1,789.37	
Printing of Booklets.....	1,008.06	
Building of Booth.....	2,732.00	
Sundries.....	1,032.79	<u>\$11,513.87</u>

APPROPRIATION, Representation of Porto Rico at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, California, No Fiscal Year.....	5,000.00	
TRANSFER	<u>2,177.41</u>	7,177.41

APPORTIONMENT FROM APPROPRIATION, Expenses Commerce Commission, No Fiscal Year	8,000.00	
REPAYMENT.....	<u>838.54</u>	<u>8,838.54</u>

\$16,015.95

EXPENSES (see above)..... 11,513.87

IN THE HANDS OF DISBURSING OFFICER..... \$4,502.08

McC/L/AGP

*Less expenses during
the month of July
debit,oucher just
received*

	→	<u>1348.39</u>
		<u>3,153.69</u>

San Juan, P. R., October 13, 1915.

To the Hon. Governor of Porto Rico,

San Juan, P. R.

Sir:-

The undersigned physicians and surgeons practicing in this city for a period of time between twelve and thirty-five years, the greater number of whom have had an opportunity to assist in more than one epidemic of yellow-fever, occupying at the present time positions in the Service of Sanitation and the United States Public Health Service on duty on this island, four as members of the Insular Board of Health, one as Assistant in the Public Health Service of the United States, another as Chief of the Bureau of Transmissible Diseases and Statistics, another as Director of the Institute of Tropical Medicine, another formerly a member of the Insular Board of Health and at the present time a member of the Porto Rico Medical Association and the Secretary of the Board of Health at the request of the Director of Sanitation met.

Dr. Lippitt stated to them that he had an official information of Dr. B. H. Dutcher, Major in the Medical Department in charge of the Military Hospital at this point stating that he would recommend the transfer of the garrison from San Juan to Cayey if an immediate campaign was not begun against the mosquitoes in accordance with his communication of October 3rd, in which he stated that an epidemic of yellow fever of considerable extent existed in the Island of Porto Rico. The Director of Sanitation believing that such action would be extremely prejudicial to the economical interest of the Island, had considered it proper to call a meeting of the physicians who visited the sick in the Military Hospital who, according to Dr. Dutcher, were suffering from yellow fever in order that after due consideration they should recommend the measures which might be considered best to avoid such an injury to this town and to the Island in general. After each one of those present had stated forth the reasons which he had for denying absolutely the present existence of cases of yellow fever in Porto Rico, it was agreed to make such a declaration and, in

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addition, to request the Honorable Governor to report by cable to the Secretary of War the seriousness and the lack of necessity of such a measure and to prepare this report to be presented to the Honorable Governor, so that he might make such disposition thereof as he might see fit.

1st.- The undersigned declare categorically that the cases that were presented to them in the Military Hospital and which were examined by them, were not yellow fever.

2nd.- With reference to the corporal of the band who died suddenly during the military march to Carolina, there are positive reasons for stating that he died as a result of cerebro-congestion and according to his previous history, collected by certain of those present, this individual was a daily alcoholic. It should also be stated that he had taken black coffee a short time before his death.

3rd.- The data collected in the office of the Chief of Transmissible Diseases and Statistics were absolutely negative, not only as relative to the existence of yellow fever but also with reference to the existence at the present time of any disease of epidemic character in the Island.

4th.- The reports received of the causes of death among those persons who have died recently are negative so far as relates to yellow fever. It is worthy of note that the mortality rate at present is less than the customary one.

5th.- The reports received in the public health office are also negative as regards the existence of yellow fever in any of the ports with which Porto Rico has commercial dealings.

Although in the City of Caracas it is understood that cases of yellow fever occur from time to time, during the period of a year no case has been reported, in spite of which fact, the public health service maintains a quarantine against all vessels coming from any port in Venezuela.

6th.- The cases presented by Dr. Dutcher have occurred exclusively in native soldiers from the Porto Rico Regiment. None of the sick have died.

7th.- The diagnosis according to our opinion of the cases observed, is as follows:

- One dengue
- One siphilis.
- One reaction from the third injection of antityphoid vaccine.
- One malaria fever as proven in the laboratory.
- One gonorrhoeal infection.
- One orchitis.

For the reasons stated, the undersigned believe that an injury is being done to this city which is not justified by the pretended existence of yellow fever and, therefore, they protest against any measure which might create unnecessary alarm in the Island. They declare, furthermore, that a campaign especially directed against yellow fever is not justified because no cases of that disease exist, and they understand that as the Director of Sanitation has a competent personnel, the existence of any epidemic, whether extensive or even a slight one, could escape his attention or that of the Insular Board of Health. That an epidemic of yellow fever could not be kept unknown or hidden in view of the local conditions, nor would it show itself exclusively among soldiers natives of the country without having already attacked the foreign population living here.

All of which we affirm so that your honor may in justice proceed in the defense and proper protection of the public interest which is entrusted to your discretion.

Respectfully,

(signed by)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. J. M. Carbonell
Member of Ins. Board of Health | Dr. F. del Valle Atilas
Pres. Ins. Board of Health |
| Dr. Gustavo Muñoz
Member of Ins. Board of Health | Dr. Eliseo Font y Guillot
Member Ins. Board of Health |
| P. Gutierrez Igaravides,
Director Inst. of Trop. Medicine | J. Gomez Brioso,
Chief Bureau of Trans. Diseases and Statistics. |
| W. F. Lippitt,
Director of Sanitation. | Dr. E. Saldaña. |
| | José Lugo-Viña,
Secretary, Ins. Board of Health. |

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO.
Sanitation Service.

San Juan, P. R., October 13, 1915.

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

Sir:

On Friday, October 1, at midday I was informed by Major Dutcher, Medical Corps, U. S. Army, in person, that there were under treatment in the Military Hospital certain cases which he suspected to be yellow-fever. As I have had no personal experience in this disease, I requested permission to take with me to see the cases some experienced physicians. That afternoon Dr. Pedro del Valle Atilas, Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Public Health Service, in charge of quarantine at San Juan, and Dr. José Gómez Brioso, Chief of the Division of Transmissible Diseases of this Service, accompanied me on a visit to the hospital. After a careful examination of the cases which were presented to them as suspicious, both of these gentlemen gave a positive opinion to the effect that there were no symptoms which in any way justified the diagnosis of yellow-fever.

Upon arrival at my office on the morning of Monday, October 4, I was handed by a special messenger an official communication from the Surgeon of the Post at San Juan (Major Dutcher) reading as follows:

"Post Hospital, San Juan, Porto Rico,
October 3, 1915.

From: Surgeon,

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To: The Director of Sanitation,
Island of Porto Rico.

Subject: Report of epidemic disease.

I have the honor to inform you that an epidemic of yellow fever of considerable extent exists in the Island of Porto Rico.

I request that an energetic anti-mosquito campaign be at once inaugurated.

B. H. Dutcher,
Major, M. C."

In view of the gravity of this statement, I submitted the communication immediately to the President of the Board of Health, Dr. Francisco del Valle Atiles, and at his advice, requested all of the members of the Board to see the reported cases. Of the members of the Board, Dr. Eliseo Font Guillot and Dr. José N. Carbonell as well as the President and the Secretary, Dr. José Lago Viña, all of whom have had long experience in this disease, saw and carefully examined the cases on Monday. As a result of this examination the Board of Health in its Special Session called for a consideration of this reported epidemic, adopted the following resolution:

"The Insular Board of Health, duly assembled, after discussing thoroughly the suspected cases which at the present time are under treatment in the Military Hospital, concluded that the symptoms observed by the physicians composing the Board, and others who because of their experience were called in to see these cases, were not sufficient to justify the

(13 Oct 15)

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opinion that the cases under consideration were sick with yellow-fever. But in view of the fact of the great importance which this matter has for the community at large it has been agreed to make another visit before giving a final opinion.

Furthermore, as these cases are under care of the Military medical authorities and protected against possible bites of mosquitoes, there is no reason for alarm. The public may be completely quiet and confident that all necessary measures will be taken to avoid an epidemic should the diagnosis of yellow fever be confirmed".

In accordance with the terms of this resolution, the cases previously reported as suspicious, and certain other cases which were reported on the afternoon of October 4, as sick in hospital, were visited by the members of the Board and by other experienced physicians during the day of October the 5th. The Board again met in special session on the afternoon of October 8, and after due consideration adopted the following resolution:

"The Board received a report given by Dr. Muñoz who to-day visited the sick in the Military Hospital in company with Dr. Esteban Saldaña, both being of the opinion that said sick had no symptoms to justify the diagnosis of yellow fever. Afterwards, Drs. Font Guillot and Carbonell reported that this morning they again visited the sick in question and stated that the condition of the sick to-day does not justify the diagnosis of yellow-fever. In view of these reasons and taking into consideration also that the investigation with regard to certain reported sick in Cataño and of the cause of death of the corporal of the Band upon whose body an autopsy was performed yesterday afternoon, the Insular Board of Health unanimously declares that the cases which have given rise to this investigation are not yellow-fever".

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It having been reported also that the death of Mr. Jas. L. Dunlevy which occurred on the night of Saturday, October 2, was also due to yellow fever, I personally visited Dr. Glines, the attending physician, who has had considerable experience in the treatment of yellow fever and requested of him a statement as to whether or not there was any possibility that Mr. Dunlevy had died of yellow-fever. His reply was positive that under no condition could it be so considered, and at my request he gave me a statement in writing to this effect, which statement is on file in this office.

In view of the continued rumors regarding the existence of yellow-fever in San Juan, and recognizing the damage that will be done to the interests of this Island in case of the establishment of quarantine by other ports doing business with San Juan, on Monday the 11th, I called a meeting of all the physicians of experience who ~~had~~ had seen these cases with a view to getting a statement in writing from them to be presented to you giving their opinion with reference to these cases, not only that they were not yellow-fever but also showing the exact diagnosis of each case.

On the afternoon of the same day, the 11th instant, I was called by you to your office for a conference with Col.

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Burnham, the commanding officer of the Porto Rico Regiment, who showed a pencil communication from Major Dutcher stating that unless an energetic campaign was begun against the mosquitoes in San Juan, Bayamón, Río Piedras, and other points in this neighborhood he would be compelled to recommend the immediate transfer of the garrison of San Juan to Cayey. Such transfer would be an immediate advertisement to the world at large that yellow-fever existed in San Juan, in the opinion of Major Dutcher, an officer of the Medical Department of the Army and therefore entitled to consideration. It is recognized that the local sanitary authorities in the United States, as shown in the epidemics of bubonic plague in San Francisco, of bubonic plague and yellow-fever in New Orleans, and of small-pox in the city of Niagara, are in the habit of denying as long as possible the existence of epidemics of quarantinable diseases. Even though the Service of Sanitation, including the Board of Health, in the epidemic of Bubonic Plague of 1913 proved its readiness to publish immediately all details of any existing epidemic, the sanitary authorities in the United States will be inclined to doubt the statement made to the effect that this disease does not exist.

The meeting called for the afternoon of the 12th instant was held and attended by Dr. Francisco del Valle Atilas, Dr. José Esteban Saldaña, Dr. José Gómez Brioso, Dr. José N. Carbonell, Dr. Pedro Gutiérrez Igaravidez, Dr. Pedro del Valle Atilas, Dr. Gustavo Muñoz Díaz, Dr. José Lugo Viña and myself. I enclose herewith a statement signed by these gentlemen showing the unanimous opinion that there is no reason whatsoever to suspect the existence of yellow-fever and stating expressly the disease which existed in each one of the cases which have been shown to these gentlemen as suspected to be yellow-fever.

In view of these facts, and in view of the damage which would be caused to the Island by a continuance of this agitation and especially by the proposed transfer of the garrison now at San Juan to the interior of the Island, I have the honor to recommend that a cable be sent to the War Department ~~through~~ through the Bureau of Insular Affairs requesting that such transfer be suspended until a careful investigation can be made by competent authorities. It is worthy of note in this connection that Major Dutcher has never seen a case of Yellow Fever and that the diagnosis made by him in these cases has been made because of ^a possible resemblance of the symptoms found by him and those given in the text books, and that he insists upon this diagnosis in spite of repeated examinations

(13 Oct 15)

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made by physicians of long experience in the treatment of the disease, and in spite of the assurances from them that the sick do not present any symptoms which justify that diagnosis.

Respectfully,

(Signed) W. F. LIPPITT,
Director of Sanitation.

The Filson Historical Society

San Juan, P. R., October 18, 1915.

The Honorable Martin Travieso,
Acting Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 13, 1915, requesting me to examine the reported cases of yellow fever and to give you my opinion as to whether or not an epidemic of yellow fever exists in this Island.

In reply I have to inform you that I have personally made a careful examination of eight cases now under treatment, and have also studied the clinical records of seven convalescent or recovered persons, four of whom I have been able to question personally.

After consideration of the clinical data obtained, and of various epidemiological factors which have an importance in the question under discussion, I am of the opinion that these cases are not yellow fever, and I have not been able to obtain any facts or information which would lead me to believe that yellow fever exists in Porto Rico.

Respectfully,

(Signed) W. W. KING.
Surgeon, United States Public Health
Service, Chief Quarantine Officer for Por-
to Rico.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
PORTO RICO

San Juan, October 20, 1915.

My dear Governor:-

I have your letter of the 2d instant and I was glad to see by it that you were enjoying your vacation and getting the rest that you needed so much in Kentucky.

Regarding matter of your check, I must say that your last check was remitted to you before your letter reached my hands and, therefore, I found it unnecessary to take up the matter with Mr. Beecher, as suggested by you. I hope the check reached you in proper time.

You probably are now fully informed of the yellow fever scare that we had recently in this city. Major Dutcher, United States Surgeon, reported to Dr. Lippitt that he had in the Military Hospital several cases that he suspected to be of yellow fever. At my request the Board of Health made a careful study and examination of all of the cases submitted by Major Dutcher and they presented to me a unanimous report that the said cases were not of yellow fever, presenting a full diagnosis of each one of the cases.

Major Dutcher would not be convinced by the opinion of the members of the Board of Health, most of whom are men of great experience in the treatment of yellow fever, and on the 13th instant he sent an official communication to Col. Burnham informing him that unless a campaign for the extermination of

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mosquitoes was begun at once by the insular authorities, he would recommend the abandonment of the post of San Juan and that the regiment be taken to the highlands of Porto Rico. You will understand that this made the situation very critical. The Commanding Officer took the regiment out of town and they are still camping in the outskirts of Carolina and will not return to town until the order given by Major Dutcher is changed. I have refused to take any action in view of the unanimous opinion of the Board of Health and of the Director of Sanitation that no yellow fever exists in Porto Rico.

On October 13th I requested Dr. King, who has personal experience in the treatment of yellow fever, to make a personal and careful study of the cases and to report to me with his opinion. Dr. King made the examination requested by me and after studying the cases for five days he submitted a report yesterday emphatically denying that they are cases of yellow fever and stating that there is no reason for suspecting that such an epidemic exists in the Island.

I immediately sent by cable to the Bureau of Insular Affairs the substance of the report of Dr. King, and requested that no action be taken to carry out the recommendation of Major Dutcher, because I consider that such an action would cause unnecessary and irreparable injury to the Island in general. I am sending by this mail a report in full of the whole matter

(20. Oct 15)

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with copies of all the reports submitted to me. The doctors that know Major Dutcher are unable to explain his conduct in this matter, specially when they consider that some of the cases reported by him as being of yellow fever were cases of very easy diagnosis.

We have also had recently some political excitement which has resulted in the calling of a special convention of the Unionist Party, which shall take place on Sunday the 24th instant in this city.

With my best wishes and regards, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Martin Francisco Jr.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
c/o Bureau of Insular Affairs,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Personal

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



Thanksgiving Day, 1915.

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

My Dear Governor:

It is impossible to be isolated in this small island, and news and newspapers reach a man way up in the mountains just as easily as if he was in town. And so the news of the resignation of the Mayor and Councilmen of Arecibo have just reached me.

You probably are aware of the necessity of finding a man, the proper man to be placed at the head of the Municipal government in Arecibo. The purpose of this letter is to request you to be kind enough to defer your action in this matter until my return next week. I am very well acquainted with the Arecibo situation and I believe I can help you very much to select a good man. I imagine that a strong effort will be made to incline you to appoint Mr. Perez Ariles, the former Mayor, and I believe that such an appointment would be most unwise at this time. I take the liberty of advising you not to commit yourself

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in anyway in favor of Mr. Perez Aviles.

I expect to leave for San Juan next Monday morning and will have the pleasure of seeing you on Tuesday.

Hoping you are now in the best of health and with my best wishes, I am

Yours very sincerely
Martin Francisco Jr.

The Filson Historical Society

September 6, 1916.

My dear Mr. Travieso:

The air to-day is full of political gossip. I suppose you have it all in some more direct way, but I will mention the leading feature seems to be the resignation of Córdova Dávila as judge to seek election as a member of the House of Delegates with the ultimate view of becoming Speaker of that House. I know nothing of it except a rumor, but hope it is not true, for it seems to me it ought to be easier to find a Speaker of the House than a new judge of the court.

I have just about made up my mind to sail for Kentucky on October 11. It seems to me now practically settled that the new organic act will not pass this session, and all my letters from Kentucky seem to indicate that it is my duty to run up there and do what I can to aid in carrying this State for the President. This will make it necessary for you to return to Porto Rico a week or two earlier than you had planned. I think if you could arrange to sail on the "Carolina," leaving New York on October the 7th, you would arrive in San Juan on the afternoon of the 11th perhaps an hour before I sailed. At any rate, you would be here in time, barring accidents, to take up the work of Governor on

(6 Sept 16)

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the following day October 12. It would be close connection but would do, because we could communicate by wireless before sailing at 5 o'clock and ascertain your whereabouts and state of health and make practically certain your coming in time.

Since we had the cyclone on Monday night, August 28, we have had heavy storms of rain and wind for two successive Monday nights, one of them almost becoming a cyclone, so we are getting superstitious about Monday nights.

Write me as soon as you get this and advise me of your plans and also give me your views of the political situation as you find it there.

Everything is quiet here in the office. I am planning to send off my report next Saturday.

With cordial remembrance to Mrs. Travieso and with best wishes for yourself, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Hon. Martin Travieso, Jr.,
c/o Bureau of Insular Affairs,
United States War Department,
Washington, D. C.

September 15, 1916.

My dear Travieso;

I received your very kind letter of the 7th inst., and was very glad to learn that you had a pleasant yet eventful voyage and were enjoying so thoroughly your vacation.

I wrote you last week that I had decided to sail October 11 and suggested that you plan your return voyage to begin October 7, which ought to bring you here on the "Carolina" in the afternoon of the 11th. Since writing, Congress, as you know, has postponed our elections with the serious purpose of taking up the new Porto Rican bill at the short session next December and of making at least a great effort to pass it. This of course would make it easy for me to leave somewhat earlier than the 11th, but I have decided to adhere to that date for the reason that that will give me 15 or 20 days in Kentucky before the election, which I take it is sufficient; and then I might find it convenient to remain over in the States until the meeting of Congress on December 4, so as to give personal aid to its committees in the final shaping of the new bill, and in that event I might not be able to get back to Porto Rico before the middle of December. So you will please consider this matter settled and you can make your plans accordingly.

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(15-Sept-16)

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I appreciate very much your offer of assistance to Mrs. Yager and I am writing her both your New York and Washington address.

One thing you omitted in your letter, you didn't say a word about the political situation. I am sure you have formed some ideas about it and I hope you will write me your impressions.

Please give my very best regards to Mrs. Travieso and also to Mr. and Mrs. Mestre when you see them again; also be sure to see General Mc Intyre and tell him how we are getting on and give him my best regards.

With the best of wishes for you, I am
Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Hon. Martin Travieso, Jr.,
c/o Bureau of Insular Affairs,
U. S. War Department,
Washington, D. C.

SHOREHAM HOTEL
H STREET NORTHWEST AT FIFTEENTH
Washington

December 22, 1916.

R. S. DOWNS, Manager

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

My dear Governor:

I am writing these few lines to give you some information about the work of the Commission since we arrived in this city. We held several conferences at the office of the Commissioner and went over the bill section by section with the idea of coming to a definite agreement as to the amendments that should be made to perfect the bill so as to put in shape for enactment. I helped the Commission in every possible way and on one or two cases my presence and prompt intervention prevented disagreements which would have endangered the work of the Commission. When the reading of the bill was completed I prepared a memorandum with the amendments suggested by the Commission. Enclosed you will find a copy of the memorandum, which we submitted to the Committee of the Senate at the hearing three days ago.

You will notice that the memorandum contains an important amendment, the one which refers to the limitation of the suffrage. It was found necessary to grant that point to avoid the opposition to be made to the Bill by Iglesias and the labor leaders, who were ready to oppose the bill and to use

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SHOREHAM HOTEL
H STREET NORTHWEST AT FIFTEENTH
Washington

R. S. Downs, Manager

every means to defeat it if the suffrage was restricted as suggested by the bill. In fact they had already started a campaign in the press and they published an article attacking you, Mr. Kern and the Commission for having consented to the limitation of the suffrage. I am going to reply to the article.

Mr. Baraldi is returning by this boat. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Bonet will sail on the 30th. Mr. Domenech will remain here for a few days longer and I have decided to remain also with him to continue our work in favor of the bill. Senator Tardaman promised us that the Committee was going to make a desperate effort when Congress reconvenes after the holidays to have the bill passed as soon as possible. I believe that it is necessary to have one or two men here to keep up the interest in the bill and urge its passage. I am glad that the other members of the Commission are going back, as it is very difficult to do anything with a Commission of more than two men, especially if they do not speak the language.

I started this letter in Washington and am finishing it in New York at the Hotel Collingwood where I will be stopping until after New Year's Day.

With my best wishes for a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year, I am as ever

Most cordially yours

Martín Francisco Jr.

January 3, 1917.

My dear Travieso:

Your letter with enclosure was duly received and I appreciate the information and reports of the commission which you have given me.

I note what you say with reference to returning to Washington and remaining there awhile in order to keep up interest in the Porto Rican bill. I have no objection to your doing this; but I think it likely, in view of what may happen in the Senate with reference to the prohibition amendment and the Broussard amendments, it will become necessary and important for me to go to Washington in time to aid and confer with the Committee on Conference between the Houses. I do not care to go earlier, and indeed would prefer not to go at all, but there will likely be matters of very great importance to Porto Rico that will have to be adjusted by the Conference Committee and I could personally be of more use perhaps at that moment than anybody else.

Everything is quiet in Porto Rico except political agitation, and I suppose you see that in the papers that are sent you. However, for fear that you may not get the "Correspondencia," I enclose herein some clippings from that paper and one from "La Democracia" which explain them-

(3-Jan 17)

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selves. This whole correspondence seems to me very unfortunate, for it indicates possible combinations of elements that have nothing in common except the mere political dickering of the moment. These temporary alliances, not founded upon common ideals and principles, are always hurtful and leave a train of embarrassments and perils for the future.

I suppose, of course, you are back in Washington and hope you will keep me posted as to the progress of events there.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Honorable Martin Travieso, Jr.,
Secretary of Porto Rico,
c/o Bureau of Insular Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Per File

Evs

WAR DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF INSULAR AFFAIRS,
WASHINGTON.

January 19, 1917.

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

My dear Governor:

Although I have not had any letter from you by the last mail, I am writing a few lines to inform you about the status of the Jones Bill.

As you already know, the bill came up for discussion last Saturday morning. After a brief explanation by Senator Shafroth of the purposes of the bill, the interruptions and questions were so numerous that the morning hour of the Senate was over before the Senator was able to make much progress in the explanations of the bill. Besides, the announcement by Senator Broussard that he was going to present his amendments made it necessary for Senator Shafroth to postpone the consideration of the bill until he had an opportunity of discussing the matter with Senator Broussard. A meeting of the Committee was called for Tuesday morning. Mr. Domenech and myself were present, and also Mr. Iglesias and Mr. Gonzales. We all joined in an effort to convince Senator Broussard of the necessity of avoiding his amendments at this time, for fear that he might ^{precipitate} ~~perpetrate~~ a long discussion which would be fatal to the bill. Mr. Hartzell, who was also present at the meeting, presented a long and able argument against the amendments of Senator Broussard. After the hearing, I had a long talk with Senator Broussard, at which I told him that I was

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heartily in favor of the enactment of some effective legislation providing for a limitation of the amount of land owned by corporations, but in my opinion, this was not the time to insist on the passing of such legislation. I promised him that if he agreed not to push the amendments at this time, I would join him later in an effort to enact such a law as a separate measure at some other time. The Senator practically agreed that he would not insist on his amendments provided the bill was made clear enough to maintain in force the present law so as to maintain the status quo regarding this matter of land holding. I believe that the danger of the Broussard amendments has been eliminated, and our efforts now will have to be concentrated in the direction of the prohibition amendment.

Senator Shafroth is still very hopeful of getting the bill through at this session.

I was expecting to have the operation on my nose performed this week, but it has been impossible for the reason that the doctor had all this week filled with previous engagements, and the earliest vacant day that he had was Monday, the 22nd inst. I decided to have it done on that date, even though it may delay my return to the Island for a week longer. I will be two days in the Walter Reed Hospital, and then the doctor will have to treat me for about a week after that, so I do not believe that I will be able to sail before February 3rd, but I will make every effort to return on that date, as I am very anxious to be back at home.

(19 Jan 17)

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With my best regards, I remain as ever,

Very cordially yours,

Montm. Francis Jr.

The Filson Historical Society

MEMORANDUM OF THE PORTO RICAN COMMISSION.

-o-o-o-o-o-

To the Honorable
The Committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico.

The undersigned, Antonio R. Barceló, member of the Executive Council of Porto Rico, and President of the Unionist Party, Manuel V. Domenech, Commissioner of the Interior and member of the Republican Party, Juan B. Huyke, member of the House of Delegates and of the Unionist Party, and José Benet, member of the House of Delegates and of the Republican Party, constituting a Commission appointed to appear before your Committee to urge the passage of H.R. 9533 entitled "An Act to provide a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes", beg leave to submit to the consideration of your Honorable Committee the following memorandum of amendments which this Commission believes are necessary to perfect the pending legislation:

Page 5, Section 2, strike out line 7.

Page 11, Section 10, line 20, strike out the words "authorized by this act" and insert in lieu thereof "and voters in Porto Rico";

Same page, in line 22, after the word "offices," insert the word "officials";

The Section will then read as follows:

Sec. 10. That all judicial process shall run in the name of "United States of America, ss, the President of the United States," and all penal or criminal prosecutions in the local courts shall be conducted in the name and by authority of "The People of Porto Rico"; and all officials and voters in Porto Rico shall be citizens of the United States, and, before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, officials shall take an oath to support the constitution of the United States and the laws of Porto Rico.

The evident purpose of the proposed amendment is to make citizenship of the United States a necessary qualification of voters.

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Page 16, Section 15, line 11, after the word "may" insert "unless otherwise provided by the legislature of Porto Rico".

Page 21, Section 23, line 16, after word "and" insert "until otherwise provided by the legislature he shall".

Page 23, Section 26, lines 10 to 13, strike out the words "and who does not own in his individual right taxable property in Porto Rico to the value of not less than \$1,000 assessed in his name and upon which he pays taxes".

Page 24, Section 27, lines 7 to 10, strike out the words "and who does not own in his individual right taxable and pays taxes upon property, real or personal, situated in Porto Rico, of the assessed value of not less than \$500."

Page 24, Section 27, line 15, after the word "be" insert the word "declared".

Pages 24 and 25, Section 28, restore lines 21 to 25 of page 24 from the word "a" on line 21; also restore line 1 page 25 from the beginning of the line to the word "discretion"; and strike out the words "the Executive Council of Porto Rico" on lines 1 and 2 of page 25.

Page 25, Section 28, line 5, strike out words "Executive Council" and insert in lieu thereof "Commission".

Page 25, strike out Section 29, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 29. The next election in Porto Rico shall be held in the year nineteen hundred and seventeen upon the sixteenth day of July. At such election there shall be chosen senators, representatives, a resident commissioner to the United States, and two public service commissioners, as herein provided. Thereafter the elections shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, beginning with the year nineteen hundred and twenty, and every four years thereafter, and the term of office of all municipal officials who have heretofore been elected, and whose terms would otherwise expire at the beginning of the year nineteen hundred and nineteen, are hereby extended until the officials who may be elected to fill such offices in nineteen hundred and twenty

shall have been duly qualified; Provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to limit the right of the legislature of Porto Rico at any time to revise the boundaries of senatorial and representative districts and of any municipality, or to abolish any municipality and the officers provided therefor.

Page 26, Section 30, strike out lines 9 to 11 to and including the word "election" and insert:

"That the term of office of senators and representatives chosen by the first general election, shall be until January first, nineteen hundred and twentyone, and the terms of office of senators and representatives chosen at subsequent elections shall be four years from the second of January following their election.

Page 27, Section 32, line 13, strike out "the next" and in lieu thereof insert "their".

Same page, Section 33, strike out lines 17 to 20 inclusive, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"That the first regular session of the legislature of Porto Rico, provided for by this act, shall convene on the twenty-eighth day after the next election provided for herein, and regular sessions of the legislature shall be held biennially thereafter, convening on the second Monday in February of each second year thereafter."

Page 28, Section 34, line 14, before "Bills" insert "Except as hereinafter provided".

Page 29, Section 34, line 14, after word "law" insert

"; Provided that the President of the United States shall approve or disapprove an act submitted to him under the provisions of this section within ninety days from and after its submission for his approval; and if not approved within such time, it shall become a law the same as if it had been specifically approved."

That Section 35 be amended so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 35 That at the first election held pursuant to this act, the qualified electors shall be those having the qualifications of voters under the present law; thereafter voters for all offices elected by the people shall have the qualifications prescribed by the legislature of Porto Rico and be comprised within one of the following classes:

- (a) Those who at the election of nineteen hundred and seventeen were legal voters and exercised the right of suffrage, *& continue to exercise that right in future elections*
- (b) Those who are able to read and write either Spanish or English.
- (c) Those who are bonafide tax payers in their own name in an amount of not less than three dollars per annum."

Page 37, Section 36, strike out lines 8 to 12 inclusive, and insert the following:

"That the qualified electors of Porto Rico shall at the next general election choose a Resident Commissioner to the United States, whose term of office shall begin on his qualification, and shall continue until the fourth of March, 1920. At each subsequent election beginning with the year 1920, the qualified electors of Porto Rico shall choose a resident commissioner to the United States, whose term of office shall be four years from the fourth of March following such general election."

Page 39, Section 38, line 2 strike out "of a public or quasi-public nature".

Same page, Section 38, strike out lines 5 to 9 inclusive and the first four words of line 10, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"to be elected by the qualified voters at the first general election to be held under this act, and at each general election thereafter. The terms of said elective commissioners elected at the first general election, shall commence on the twenty-eighth day following the said general election, and the terms of the said elective commissioners elected at each subsequent general election shall commence on the second day of January following their election; they shall serve for four years."

Page 43, Section 42, line 2, after "United States" insert "not domiciled in Porto Rico".

Page 52, Section 59, line 6, after the word "effect" insert

"Provided, that on all coffee in the bean or ground imported into Porto Rico there shall be levied and collected a duty of five cents per pound, any law or part of law to the contrary notwithstanding."

In closing this memorandum, the Commission desires to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that the Commission is bi-partizan in character, being formed of representatives of the two political parties representing public opinion in Porto Rico; that the Commission is unanimous in support of the Bill, believing that it does justice to the people of Porto Rico; and that the amendments suggested are not intended to change in any way the fundamental principles of the bill.

Your Committee is respectfully requested to urge the enactment at this session of the pending bill, which will be received with joy by the people of Porto Rico.

Respectfully submitted,

President, Unionist Party, and Member
of the Executive Council of Porto Rico.

Commissioner of the Interior of Porto Rico
and member of the Republican Party.

Member of the House of Delegates of Porto
Rico and of the Unionist Party.

Member of the House of Delegates of Porto
Rico and of the Republican Party.

San Juan, March 3, 1917.

My dear Mr. Travieso:

Now that the Jones Bill terminating your position as Secretary of Porto Rico has been signed by the President, I desire to express to you the sincere regret that I feel in having to give up your services for the people of Porto Rico and also my association with you in the work of the Government.

I understand fully that you have long anticipated this event and that you have worked faithfully with me and others for securing the passage of the new organic act with full knowledge of the effect upon yourself personally. Nevertheless, it is with real regret that I am forced to relinquish your participation and cooperation in the government of the Island.

I assure you that I appreciate your character, loyalty and ability, your devotion to the true interests of your country as you have understood them, and I hope that the time may soon come when the Government may again have the benefit of your personal service.

Assuring you of my personal esteem and friendship and of my continued interest in your future welfare, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Hon. Martin Travieso, Jr.,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

ARTHUR YAGER
Governor.

11x98

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ANTHONY YAGER
Governor.

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