

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 6, 1914.

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

Dear Governor:

I have your letter of June 23, 1914, which I showed
the Secretary of War, who expressed a willingness to let the
matter terminate in the way you have already planned.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Henry Beckwith

The Filson Historical Society

October 17, 1914.

My dear Mr. Secretary:-

The situation as to market conditions for the Porto Rico coffee crop this year seems to be growing worse from time to time. As you probably know, this crop consisting of about 50,000,000 pounds has always been sold almost wholly in Europe and, of course, at present Europe is no market for anything.

Considerable coffee has been sold this year to Spain, some in Cuba; but France, Italy, Germany and Austria, which took perhaps more than half the crop last year, have thus far shown so little interest in the market that it does not seem possible for the Porto Rican coffee crop to be marketed at all unless we can open up some new outlets for it.

The crisis is so serious and the possible disaster to the small growers of coffee up in the mountains of the Island seem so distressing, that I am writing you to ask if it would not be possible for the War Department itself to extend temporary relief by instructing its officers who buy coffee for the various army posts to give first consideration to Porto Rico coffee in making their purchases. We can of course furnish samples of the various grades; and prices will

(17 Oct 14)

be lower in Porto Rico than those of any recent year, so that I am convinced that this coffee could be furnished the army posts upon such terms as to cause no loss to the purchasing departments, and inasmuch as Porto Rican coffee is an American product I think that the Department would be justified in giving it a preference. I understand that something of this sort was done once before during a crisis in the coffee business under the administration of Governor Allen. If it was ever proper to do it it is certainly proper at this time when such serious conditions have been brought upon the poor of the mountain sections of the Island through no fault of their own. I am struggling in every possible way to find some temporary relief from a very serious condition and I would greatly appreciate any help or advice you may give me.

With the greatest esteem and respect, I am,
Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable Lindley H. Garrison,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.
(Through the Bureau of Insular Affairs).

June 30, 1915.

My dear Mr. Secretary:-

I have the honor to recommend Mr. Manuel Camuñas, the present Director of Labor, Charities and Corrections, for reappointment as a member of the Executive Council of Porto Rico, to take effect immediately upon the expiration of the present term which is July 13, 1915.

It is quite important for two or three reasons that this appointment be made before the date mentioned so that there will be no lapse or vacancy in the office of the Director of Labor, Charities and Correction, who, as you know, is first appointed as a member of the Executive Council. I would therefore appreciate very much if you could secure action upon this reappointment within the next week or ten days.

I need not remind you, I am sure, that great inconvenience has already been caused us by delay in the appointment of a Commissioner of Education in succession to Honorable E. M. Bainter who resigned early in April and left the Island May 15; but I doubt not you and the President have both done your best under the circumstances, nevertheless I venture to hope that

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(30 June 15)

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this appointment will soon be made.

With highest esteem, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War,

Washington, D. C.

The Filson Historical Society

August 27, 1915.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I understand that it is necessary for me to appoint another military aid because of the cutting off of the chance for further service in that capacity of Lieutenant E. C. de Hostos by the law governing detached service.

I desire, therefore, to ask for the appointment of Lieutenant Adolfo de Hostos to occupy this position beginning with the close of the service of Lieutenant E. C. de Hostos.

Yours very respectfully,

Governor.

Honorable Lindley M. Garrison,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

(Through the Bureau of Insular Affairs)

March 7, 1916.

My dear Mr. Breekinridge:

I was taken so much by surprise by the resignations of Secretary Garrison and yourself, and I have been so much occupied since with an unusual pressure of business that I have had no time to write, but I have thought of you a great deal and have the greatest interest in knowing your plans.

We are so cut off from the papers down here that I have not seen many references to your movements since your resignation took effect. I am greatly interested and would appreciate very much a letter from you giving me such information as you think proper to give out to your friends, not only with reference to the causes of the resignation of the Secretary and yourself, but also and especially as to your plans and purposes for the future. I very much fear that you may not see your way to return to Kentucky at once and take up your law practice. However, I hope you will do so, for I have looked forward with the most pleasant anticipation to cooperation with you in promoting the best progress of Kentucky in the future when we shall have both returned to our native State.

What is going to happen to the plans of the Administration with reference to the great questions of

(7 Mar 16)

-2-

preparedness and national defence in this session of Congress, and what do you think will be the fate of the Philippine bill and the Porto Rican bill? I wish very much that I could see you and have a long talk, but as that is impossible I hope you will write me a letter. In any event, however, I wish you to remember that I am and shall continue to be as always

Your sincere friend

Governor.

Honorable Henry Breckinridge,
United States War Department,
Washington, D. C.

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Cablegram from Crowder
to Yager received here
Dec. 11, 1918 - Paragraph one -

The Filson Historical Society

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March 6, 1917.

My dear Governor Yager:

Your letter of the twenty-fourth of February has just reached me as I am on the point of starting out with the inter-departmental committee appointed by the President to select for recommendation to him a site or sites for the development of water power for the production of nitrogen for war supplies. This work has grown since it was suggested until now the President feels it necessary for us practically to cover the entire United States and to have hearings at various places where water power is supposed to be available and adequate.

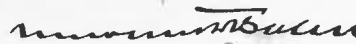
This is only one more thing thrown into a busy, if not over-crowded, official routine, and makes for the immediate present impossible the trip I had planned to the Panama Canal and, incidentally, to Porto Rico, upon which I had hoped to leave at about this time. I am not, however, willing to abandon the project, and so shall regard it as merely defer-

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red until I can dispose of more pressing matters here and feel myself free to be away for the length of time which would be involved in such a journey. Mrs. Baker is naturally exceedingly anxious to go with me on the trip, and appreciates, as I do, the welcome of which you and Mrs. Yager have assured us.

The passage of the Porto Rico Bill really turned out to be an astonishing thing; when so many other pieces of important legislation failed, to have this one go through almost at the last moment was highly satisfactory. I cannot feel that I, personally, contributed very much to the success, but General McIntyre was untiring, and the President, himself, took a hand, which, of course, means that the surest and strongest influence was at work in our behalf.

Cordially yours,



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

MILITARY REGISTRATION.

Report of Special Committee.

The Honorable

The Governor of Porto Rico,

San Juan, P.R.

Sir:

The undersigned, constituting a special committee nominated by the Governor to report and recommend as to the best machinery for putting into operation the military registration of all men of military age and subject to conscription, in accordance with the recent Act of Congress, desire to report as follows:

LOCATION OF REGISTRATION PLACES-

Your Committee believes that it will be very difficult and impracticable to attempt to carry out the registration entirely or in large part in the various barrios of the municipalities, but that it is preferable to provide for registration places in the cities and in such places in the barrios

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as are thickly populated, well known, and easily accessible, and it is believed that these specific places of registration should be left to be determined by the local officials appointed in the manner discussed in the following paragraph.

MACHINERY AND PERSONNEL FOR REGISTRATION.

After having considered the possibility of using the various officials of the Insular and municipal governments available for this work, your Committee recommends that -

1st - If an Adjutant General is appointed for Porto Rico, the general supervision and central administrative machinery for the registration be placed under him; and

2nd - In case an Adjutant General has not been appointed for Porto Rico, that the Governor appoint a special committee of three or four members, government officials, to be known as the "Military Registration Committee", which committee is to have its offices in a room of the De-

putación building, near the rooms now used by the Supervisor of Elections, and that inasmuch as use is to be made of election data and machinery, the Supervisor of Elections should be a member of and the executive or administrative officer of the Committee. Wherever the words "Military Registration Committee" are used, "Adjutant General" should be substituted, in case an Adjutant General is appointed for Porto Rico.

Your Committee believes that the most efficient manner of organizing the concrete work of registration, after all of the preliminary data, forms and information have been prepared by the Military Registration Committee, is to use the fiscals of the districts to supervise the work of the towns in their respective districts, and it is recommended that the fiscals should submit to the Governor, through the Military Registration Committee, for his approval, the names of the officials to be placed in charge of the work in each

municipality. The Act of Congress and the regulations presented by the President for the registration in the states on June 5th, provide for local boards corresponding to each county, or similar subdivisions in each state, with special boards for each city with over 30,000 inhabitants. In Porto Rico the municipality is the unit most nearly corresponding to the county, and should be the unit used. The regulations prescribe that the local boards should normally consist of the sheriff, the county clerk, and the county physician; the sheriff to be the executive officer, the county clerk to be the recorder and custodian of records, and the county physician to be the surgeon of the Board. The regulations provide for the appointment, by the Governor, of other officials or civilians when the appointment of the designated officials is not practicable.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF BOARDS.

We do not have the position of Sheriff of the county, and the nearest approximation is that of Marshal of the local court. However, it is believed that in those places where there are municipal judges, these officials should normally be the executive officers of the Board; in other municipalities the justices of the peace might be designated, and in other municipalities, they might be the officers of some of the other services of the Insular or municipal governments.

RECORDING OFFICERS OF BOARDS.

We do not have the position of County Clerk in Porto Rico. The position most closely approximating this position in the States is that of Secretary of the local court. However, the work of Municipal Secretary in Porto Rico involves somewhat similar duties and these officials might be used to a certain extent.

SURGEON OF LOCAL BOARDS.

For these positions the municipal physician or local sanitation officers might be advantageously used.

It must be remembered that the Boards will have important duties to perform at a later date, in connection with the exemption of persons entitled to exemption, and they should be selected with great care.

In each municipality, after the local Boards have been chosen, it is recommended that there be selected immediately the registration places for the respective barrios. For this purpose the city halls, the municipal court buildings, the offices of the internal revenue collectors, police cuartels, and other similar places can be used; and two or more barrios may be assigned to the same registration place, when the estimated

number of persons of military age is small enough to warrant the consolidation. An official, to be appointed with the approval of the Fiscal and of the Military Registration Committee, should be placed in charge of the work for each barrio.

The Military Registration Committee will provide, for distribution to the respective officers in charge of each municipality, data as to the estimated number of men of military age in each barrio, and a statement as to the estimated number of clerks that will be required to attend to the work for that barrio.

The officials in charge of the municipality will, with the approval of the fiscal, designate the names of the clerks to be employed at each one of the registration places, and the place of registration for each barrio.

It is recommended that there be prepared and printed immediately forms substantially like that submitted herewith, designated as Exhibit "A". The first three items on this form will be filled in by the Military Registration Committee before being sent out to the fiscals or local officials in charge of each municipality, and the fiscals will receive a circular letter of instructions, advising them to visit each municipality in their district and see that the local officials placed in charge of said municipalities thoroughly understand the work to be performed, and comply with the regulations to be issued by the Military Registration Committee.

As soon as this work is done and approved by the fiscals, the forms are to be forwarded back to the Military Registration Committee, and when approved by the said Committee, the proper blanks, filing cases and other necessary materials can be sent to the local registration places, and the public can then be thoroughly informed of the places designated for registration and of the persons who will be required to register, by means of a general proclamation by the Governor and by means of specific directions given by the local officials in charge of the registration. These local officials can use all of the means available, including the police and other public officials and the comisarios of the barrios of each municipality, to convey the information to each barrio as to the registration place for that barrio, and as to the persons who should present themselves for registration.

DISBURSING OFFICER.

It will be necessary for the Governor, in accordance with advices contained in the cables received, to appoint a disbursing officer and to secure funds for the immediate prosecution of the work of the Military Registration Committee.

GENERAL CONTROL OF THE GOVERNOR.

It is understood, of course, that the work of the Military Registration Committee should be entirely under the supervision of the Governor, and that it should be facilitated in every manner possible, either by orders of the Governor to the various officials and employees of the various branches of the Federal, Insular and municipal governments in Porto Rico to lend every assistance necessary to carry out the work, or by delegation to the Committee of the power to require the services of such officials. In this manner

it is believed that a large part of the work can be done without the necessity of hiring many different officials, or without great additional expense. It is believed further that many volunteers to aid in this work can be obtained in various parts of the Island, and that with the Military Registration Committee at the head, giving detailed instructions to the fiscals, and the local officers in charge in each municipality, all of the machinery of the Government can be used, and the needs of each municipality as to the most convenient and proper places for registration can be met.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. Kern
.....
John A. W. ...
.....
James F. ...
.....
Alvin Pacheco
.....

Exhibit A

Form No. 1

MILITARY REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

San Juan, P. R.

June , 1917.

- Statement showing registration places and names of officials and clerks in charge of registration places for each barrio of each municipality of Porto Rico.

- 1- Municipality of.....Barrio of.....
- 2- Estimated number of men of military age in the above mentioned barrio.....
- 3- Estimated number of clerks required for the registration places in the above mentioned barrio.....
- 4- Name of person in charge of registration place for said barrio.....
- 5- Place of registration for said barrio.....
- 6-
- 6- Names and addresses of clerks to be employed at the place of registration designated in the preceding paragraph.
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WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON.

July 8, 1918.

My dear Governor:

Under date of April 30, 1918, Santiago Iglesias, President of the Free Federation of Laborers of Porto Rico, presented, through the President of the American Federation of Labor, to the President certain charges against you.

These charges were made public in Porto Rico. It is, therefore, unnecessary to recite them.

With such expedition as was possible in view of the urgent demands of the war on the time of every officer of the government, these charges have been examined.

In view of evidence at hand, it is unnecessary to make further investigation. The charges, in so far as they reflect on you personally or on the conduct of your office, have no foundation. To go through the forms of an investigation in view of available evidence would at such a time as this be a severe reflection on this Department.

Very sincerely,

(Sgd.) Newton D. Baker,
Secretary of War.
Honorable Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico,
San Juan, P. R.

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July 31, 1918.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I cabled you the other day for permission to publish here your two letters of July 8.

I desire to express to you again my appreciation of the confidence that you have expressed in myself personally and my administration in those letters.

Mr. Iglesias and his adherents here in Porto Rico are striving to get political advantage out of this whole matter and they are publishing in the newspapers here distorted versions of what is taking place at Washington. The most recent statement is that the War Labor Board, in response to representations made by Mr. Iglesias, are going to have a public hearing upon Porto Rican labor conditions and that they are going to send down a commission to investigate these conditions here in the island.

One of your letters of July 8 seems clearly to imply that the President himself will select this commission upon your own suggestion for purposes which you have clearly outlined in the letter.

I think it would be very helpful to the prestige and dignity of both the Government and the War Department to have these letters published and the situation made clear.

Of course, as I have previously written, I have not the slightest objection to an investigation made in Porto Rico of the entire labor situation by a commission of competent and impartial men, and I am confident that the President will send down men of this sort and I shall welcome them and give them every possible assistance.

I am somewhat doubtful as to whether the month of September is the best time for them to visit Porto Rico. That is one of our dullest months; all the mills of course are closed, and there is usually little work being done in cultivation. I think it would probably be better for the purpose of investigating the sugar industry especially that a time be selected when the mills are in actual operation with their scales of wages all fixed and disputed matters as to actual payments of wages to the various classes of workers and their labor conditions could be investigated and proved with the industry actually going.

I think, moreover, that it is likely that Mr. Igle-

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(31 Jul 19)

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sias is waiting in Washington upon the appointment of the commission and is planning to come along with them and to hold out to his followers that he brought the commission along.

However, all this is of comparatively unimportant and I shall cheerfully accept any arrangement that the President may see fit to make.

I am sending you a copy of a long letter to the President in which I make an attempt to answer seriatim all the charges of Mr. Iglesias and Mr. Dooley, and also discuss briefly the general improvement in labor conditions which has taken place in the last two or three years. This letter was prepared before the receipt of your recent letters and is intended as an expression of my own views as to all these charges and as to the labor situation in general rather for the record in the Bureau of Insular Affairs than for use in connection with the charges.

I would appreciate it very much if you could possibly find time to read this letter, to discuss it with the President, place it in the files of the Bureau and make any other use of it that may seem proper to you.

If the War Labor Board is to consider this matter, I should be glad for them to have a copy of it, or if a commission is appointed to come down, I should be glad for them to read it as a preparation for their work here in the Island. If at any time this controversy should again appear in the newspapers of the United States, I think it would be proper for my reply also to be published along with the charges. However, I leave this matter entirely in your hands.

Thanking you again for your letters and assuring you of my highest personal esteem and appreciation of the enormous task that you have accomplished for our nation in the war, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Honorable Newton D. Baker,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON.

July 8, 1918.



My dear Governor:

Under date of April 30, 1918, Santiago Iglesias, President of the Free Federation of Laborers of Porto Rico, presented, through the President of the American Federation of Labor, to the President certain charges against you.

These charges were made public in Porto Rico. It is, therefore, unnecessary to recite them.

With such expedition as was possible in view of the urgent demands of the war on the time of every officer of the government, these charges have been examined.

In view of evidence at hand, it is unnecessary to make further investigation. The charges, in so far as they reflect on you personally or on the conduct of your office, have no foundation. To go through the forms of an investigation in view of available evidence would at such a time as this be a severe reflection on this Department.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Woodrow Wilson".

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

Secretary of War.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON.



July 8, 1918.

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

My dear Governor:

I can not dismiss from my mind the situation of labor in Porto Rico or the condition of those in Porto Rico habitually without regular labor.

I know well from your public expressions, as well as from private conversation, that this is a subject near to your heart and to which you have devoted much attention. I know also that something has been accomplished in the way of improvement of labor conditions. I know that you have plans which would bring about better conditions. Unfortunately, these plans require the cooperation of others outside of Porto Rico, and this leads up to the following thought, having in mind particularly the obtaining of the necessary assistance from without Porto Rico.

I am going to take up with the President the question of having a general study of labor conditions in Porto Rico,

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(8 Jul 18)

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industrial and agricultural, made by persons whose views and recommendations would command the respect of all in Porto Rico, as well as reasonably assure to us that outside assistance without which we seem unable to do all that we would like to see done.

In taking this up with the President I shall have in mind the possibility of having the commission or persons doing this work visit Porto Rico about next September.

Very sincerely,



Secretary of War.

Governor

No. 32.

Cablegram received dated July 31, 1918.

Yager, San Juan.

July 31- Referring to telegram from your office of 24th inst. Cooley will not accept less than \$1,500.

Referring to telegram from your office of 27th inst. Cebollero said to be in Cuba.

St. John requests that we transmit the following:
"New York recommendation A. G. Steel professor education \$2000 age 46 doctor of philosophy Clark University 17 years teaching and administrative experience also recommend his wife instructor education \$1000 same degrees several years experience college teacher education and model school director valuable team eliminate assistant professorship recommend cable offer address normal school Minot, North Dakota."

Referring to telegram our cable May 6th (Stephenson) now declines.

Referring to telegram from your office of 29th inst. before transmitting request to Secretary of War would like to submit this thought for your consideration viz letters July 8th from Secretary of War dispose of the charges very *satisfactorily* highest endorsements of (your action) in ~~labor~~ labor troubles have been received from several elements in Porto Rico as matter stands you have decided tactical advantage labor situation seems to be in a quiescent state now and publication of letters may not only develop another bitter word war but may start up labor element itself it seems desirable to let this present condition continue until visit of proposed investigators I have consulted General McIntyre and he agrees with above suggestion.

fv-

Walcott.

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SANTIAGO IGLESIAS IN WASHINGTON.

The Investigation Commission of the National War Labor Board will arrive in the Island at any moment.

Washington.- July 16 - It is an undeniable fact that all the changes in justice demanded by the labor organizations of Porto Rico have culminated in a colossal triumph.

By the change of Brigadier General McIntyre, in charge of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, a great and deep transformation will take place in the local government of the Island.

The great partiality maintained in favor of the capitalistic interests, dangerous to the development of the country and to the labor elements, has been demonstrated; so much so that important officials of the National Government, on becoming familiar with labor questions in Porto Rico, have stated: "Much has been said, to me particularly, of the natural beauties of Borinquen, of its millions in production, of its dense population, but never have I been told that in the beautiful Antille those whose labor has caused it to shine forth are rewarded by the most sordid exploitation and tyranny. I am convinced that Porto Rico has not been governed by the laws of our Constitution but by the devices of political adventurer ~~trustocrats~~ trustocrats. Of course everything has been done quietly or with the sanction and help of Porto Rican delegations and representatives of parties who have frequently come here on political business."

LABOR AGAINST SANTIAGO IGLESIAS.

More than a thousand documents have been presented by political elements, local authorities and landholders (hacendados) with the object of discrediting the work of Iglesias, the labor delegate, and to counteract his evidence. All these documents were joined in a voluminous record of which many copies were made.

After careful study it was decided to leave the question of its credibility until the many charges could be corroborated by a full investigation in Porto Rico. This action was finally taken because of the apparent contradictions in the said charges.

MR. DOMINGO COLLAZO BEFORE THE NATIONAL WAR LABOR BOARD.

Mr. D. Collazo appeared at a public hearing before the said Board making important charges and statements in regard to general condition in the country and especially of the poverty of the rural population. He offered, also, various documents in support of his statements.

July 23, 1918.

(From Washington)

Translated from La Correspondencia de Puerto Rico of March 30, 1918.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,
WASHINGTON.

November 8, 1918.

My dear Governor:

I have the pleasure of introducing to you Professor Stephen Taber, of the University of South Carolina, who accompanies Professor Reid and is to cooperate in the study of the recent earthquakes.

I bespeak for him every courtesy and assistance, which I know you will be only too glad to render.

Very sincerely,

Woodrow Wilson

Secretary of War.

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

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THE SECRETARY OF WAR,
WASHINGTON.

November 8, 1918.

My dear Governor:

I have the pleasure of introducing to you Professor Harry Fielding Reid, of Johns Hopkins University, who visits Porto Rico at my request to study the recent earthquakes.

I bespeak for him every courtesy and assistance, which I know you will be only too glad to render.

Very sincerely,

Woodrow Wilson
Secretary of War.

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

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON.


July 5, 1919.

My dear Governor Yager:

Madam Tamika Miura, a Japanese artist, is on her way to Porto Rico with an opera company which is to perform there on its way to South America. Madam Miura is the first Japanese woman to develop the vocal art according to European standards sufficiently to be a prima donna in grand opera of high artistic excellence. In addition to this, she is a woman of great culture and fineness of spirit, and in our war work here was most patriotic and generous with her voice, singing for the entertainment of soldiers in camps and hospitals.

I would be very grateful if you could find it possible to extend some official courtesy to her while she is in Porto Rico. Her stay will perhaps be two weeks in length, and if you have an opportunity to hear her sing I am sure you will realize that she is a great artist.

Cordially yours,


Newton D. Baker
Secretary of War.

Honorable Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico.

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July 23, 1919.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I received with pleasure your letter of July 5th, introducing Madam Tamika Muira, and have attended one of her performances, and also seen her two or three times socially. I greatly enjoyed her rendition of Madama Butterfly, in which she proved herself not only an excellent singer, but also a really great artist.

As she is going on to Venezuela I have given her a letter of introduction to my friend, President V. Marquez Bustillos, who, I believe is still the formal president of the Republic.

I requested General Walcutt of the Bureau to express to you my appreciation of your letter to President Wilson, requesting him to recommend to Congress, the appeal made by the Commissioner of Education of Porto Rico and myself, for a special appropriation by the Federal Government, in aid of education in Porto Rico. The people here have taken great interest in this matter, and we are all very hopeful in regard to it. The local Legislature, at its last session, made large increases in the educational budget raising the salaries of the teachers and extending the school work in several directions. Of course they had to make a large increase in taxation in order to secure the funds.

The long session of the Legislature, lasting almost five months, including two or three short recesses, with its clash of conflicting interests and struggle between the houses, has had a sobering effect not only upon the people, but also upon the political leaders themselves, and there is now an unmistakable feeling amongst all classes that we have perhaps gone far enough for the present in the direction of political autonomy for Porto Rico, that the Island already has as much self-government as the people are prepared to use wisely. This movement for a referendum of the people of the Island upon their

(23 Jul 19)

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political status did not originate in Porto Rico,
and is not desired by the people generally at this
time.

With best wishes for you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable Newton D. Baker,

Secretary of War,

Washington, D. C.

The Filson Historical Society

December 11th 1919

Hon. Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, U.S.A.
Washington, D.C.

Copy to Governor.

My dear Mr Secretary;

As a guest at the dinner given in your honor last evening, I was so impressed with your remarks that I have made a personal canvas among many bankers and leading merchants of this city, while you are en-route to Cayey.

It may interest you to know that the general consensus of opinion is that your talk has added several million dollars to the value of this Island.

You appear to have been singularly well advised as to our commercial needs, the deepening of the harbor of San Juan, the making of it a port of call for South-bound steamers, as well as North-bound, will give us on the Island the needed facilities for expansion, removing the uncertainty which has prevailed since the scarcity of ships and tonnage of any kind has made it so difficult for merchants and growers to do business.

It was noted that no reference was made to the establishment of a "Free-port" in the harbor of San Juan, but this was attributed to shortness of time to cover all the matters in your mind. Permit me to suggest that with our great labor problem no better place for the operation of a "Free-port" could be suggested, as distributive facilities will be so improved.

Later on, say in five years, when the sugar bowls of the States become filled, with the consequent reduction in price it will doubtless reflect in a great measure on our important industry of sugar production, affecting land values, reducing the demand for labor, and making intensive cultivation a necessity, the free-port can well come into its own, as the fertilizer can well be made in it, importing only the chemicals, and using our own soils for the base of the mixture.

Tobacco growing will doubtless increase as other industries wane, and this Island is particularly adapted for the making of high-grade as well as cheap segars, as the humidity prevailing conduces to maintain the high character of the leaf.

Our waste of unmarketable citrus fruits and pineapples will stop, these being manufactured into suitable bottled goods for sale in the States.

The employment of our women is in its infancy and I expect to see exports of fine embroideries and linen worked by our women run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. There appears to be no limit to the demand, and work can be done here equal to the finest made in France.

These hints at possibilities are the result of only about two hours talk with the people I met and are here handed you solely as suggestions to think over.

It was a blessing to this Island that you decided to give us only a part of 24 hours.

With best wishes for a safe journey and continued good health, I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Respectfully yours,

26 111

My mother-in-law, Mrs. Lewis, in spite of her years, enjoyed every minute of her participation in the festivities, and was especially charmed by Mrs. Baker, and Mrs. Chamberlain. She asks me to remember her most cordially to yourself and Mrs. Baker.

Please accept my hearty congratulations, both personal and official.

Very sincerely your friend,

PERSONAL:

December
Seventeenth
Nineteen Nineteen

Honorable Newton D. Baker,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have waited a few days after your departure from Porto Rico to get an impression of the general results of your visit, and I am writing now just a line to say that from every point of view the visit of yourself and party to Porto Rico, short though it was, produced excellent effects. The impression made upon the people of the island was fine, and the people greatly appreciated your coming. And I will add that the personal impression produced by yourself and Mrs. Baker especially, was in every way pleasant and helpful. I hope that you and all of your party enjoyed their short stay in the island as much as we did, in spite of the strenuousness of the program arranged for your reception and entertainment.

It is probably futile to express a wish that you might repeat this visit at some time when you could make a longer stay, but, if you ever find an opportunity to do so, I wish to say for myself and for the people of the island, that the "Latch string is on the outside of the door".

December 24, 1919.

Honorable Newton D. Baker,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing herein some letters and memoranda connected with the case of Mrs. Rockwell, a widow whose husband was killed during the war while in the service of the aviation branch.

You will remember that this case was presented to you by Mr. Baroalo, and Mr. Sanchez Morales, and by Mrs. Rockwell herself, at the Casino de Puerto Rico, while you were here, and that you and I both promised to do what we could for her, upon presentation in writing of a memorandum containing all of the facts.

I am sure you will do whatever you can to secure all possible and proper relief for this lady who has four orphan children to support, and is a very worthy and reliable woman.

Wishing for you and Mrs. Baker, and your family,
a Merry Christmas, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

(Thru Bureau of Insular Affairs.)

11x28

December
Thirty-first
Nineteen nineteen.

Honorable Newton D. Baker,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have received the copy of
your book on the Frontiers of Freedom,
which you very kindly sent me under date
of December 15th.

I have already found time to
read a large part of it, and have enjoyed
it immensely, especially your chapter on
"What we have done to make war".

I shall read it from cover to
cover; and greatly appreciated your kind-
ness in sending it to me.

I hope that you and Mrs. Baker
have enjoyed a pleasant holiday season,
and have already recovered from your
arduous trip to the South.

With the very best wishes for
you both, I am

Sincerely yours,

San Juan, P. R., October 4, 1920.

My dear Mr. Secretary:--

You will probably remember that while I was at Washington I suggested to you the propriety of recommending Colonel O. P. Townshend for the distinguished service medal on account of his military service here in Porto Rico during the great war. As this matter was mentioned to you casually in a chance meeting at the door of the War Department building, I fear that it may have slipped your memory and am now simply writing to remind you of it.

I think that Colonel Townshend's services here in Porto Rico were of an unusual sort, largely due to the fact that the relations of Porto Rico at that time and at all times to the United States are unusual. The chief task was to keep the people of the Island thoroughly loyal to the Nation and thoroughly interested in the war so that they might perform cheerfully and willingly all of the military duties imposed upon them and make a good war record in every way. I think it is fair to say that this was accomplished well and thoroughly and that Porto Rico's record in the war was one to be proud of and it reflected credit not only upon the Porto Ricans themselves, but upon our great Nation.

117 92

(4 Oct. 20)

N. D. B. - 2

It can not be said of all the nations engaged in the war that all of their people stood as loyally to their flag as did the people of Porto Rico to the stars and stripes. I think also that a considerable share of the credit for the performance of Porto Rico on the military side is due to Colonel Townshend who had entire charge of that part of the work during all the earlier part of the war. The organization and training of the three officers' camps, the building of the Las Casca Encampment, the mobilization, organization and the early training of Porto Rico's contribution to the National Army, etc. etc., were all carried out by Colonel Townshend, who was the military commander of the Porto Rico district, and much of our success in getting all of this work thoroughly done was due to his industry, tact and skill as a military officer.

I would appreciate it, therefore, if his services which were so efficiently rendered in this way might receive every recognition possible.

Very sincerely yours,

Governor of Porto Rico.

Hon. Newton D. Baker,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON.

P.F.
November 13, 1920.

My dear Governor Yager:

This note will introduce to you Miss Hunter, a representative of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor. General McIntyre will, no doubt, have notified you of Miss Hunter's coming to the Island and of the work which the Children's Bureau is undertaking there. You will find that Miss Hunter and the Bureau are very earnest and serious and desire to have access to the real facts in order that public attention in the United States, both official and unofficial, can be soundly directed toward the ways in which the United States can be of help to the people of Porto Rico. I will greatly appreciate it if you will do everything you can for Miss Hunter and if you will see that she is received with all that is due to a representative of the Government who comes for a high and helpful purpose.

Cordially yours,



Newton D. Baker,
Secretary of War.

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

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11X98

In repl. refer to
O.D. 1537.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON.



December 11, 1920

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

My dear Governor:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 16, 1920, in which you recommend the award of the Distinguished Service Medal to Colonel O. P. Townshend, U. S. Army.

The services of Colonel O. P. Townshend were already under consideration by a board of officers convened in the War Department for such purpose, and I have referred your letter to them for their information and consideration. Upon report from the board I assure you that you will be fully advised of the action taken.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Newton D. Baker".

NEWTON D. BAKER,
Secretary of War.

DEC. 13 1920

11788



THE SECRETARY OF WAR
WASHINGTON

December 14, 1920.

My dear Governor Yager:

Mrs. Baker and I join in extending to you and Mrs. Yager the compliments of the season with our hope that this may be a happy Christmas for you and the beginning of many prosperous and happy new years.

The approaching termination of my relationship with the War Department will bring many regrets, due to the warm associations and keen interests which have naturally grown up in these great affairs, but I shall carry into private life the recollection of much gracious hospitality and kindness extended to me by those with whom I have been associated in official relations and I am sure you will understand why this general feeling in your case will have ripened into a sense of permanent friendship.

Cordially yours,

Hon. Arthur Yager,
The Palace,
San Juan,
Porto Rico.

86 x 11

S
San Juan, Porto Rico.
December 27, 1920.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

It was with extraordinary pleasure that I read your charming letter of December 14th, and it was not without a twinge of regret that I noted your allusion to the approaching termination with the War Department. Although my own separation from this important branch of the public service may not be delayed very long after your retirement, nevertheless I can not look forward without a twinge of pain to the possibility of having another superior officer than yourself. I'm very sure I can never feel just the same toward any other, whoever he may happen to be. However, I wish for you a most pleasant and successful re-entrance into your great profession, and I feel perfectly sure that you will make it so. It will always remain one of the pleasantest experiences of my life to remember the official and personal relations that I have had the honor to enjoy with you.

With the most cordial remembrances for Mrs. Baker, in which Mrs. Yager joins me, I am with the highest personal regards

Sincerely your friend,

The Honorable Newton D. Baker,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D.C.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON.

March 3, 1921.

Dear Governor Yager:

I am preparing now to leave the War Department.

As one of my final acts I desire to tell you how much I have appreciated your work in Porto Rico and how great has been my satisfaction at the way in which you have handled the difficult and annoying problems arising there. What would normally have been a heavy responsibility for the War Department will be, due to your efficient management of the affairs committed to you in Porto Rico, one of the most pleasant memories of my service in this office.

With best wishes to you, and with kindest regards to each of the members of your family, I am,

Very sincerely,



Secretary of War.

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

86 X 11

BAKER, HOSTETLER & SIDLO

ANNOUNCE THAT

MR. NEWTON D. BAKER

HAS RESUMED ACTIVE CONNECTION WITH THEM

IN THE GENERAL PRACTICE OF LAW

UNION NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

CLEVELAND, OHIO

86 x 11

The Filson Historical Society

March 16, 1921.

The Honorable Newton D. Baker,
Baker, Hostötler, and Sidlo,
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Baker:

I feel very strange in addressing you in any other form than my dear Mr. Secretary, but I suppose that this is not permitted. I want to thank you first for your very kind letter of March 3rd. I appreciate this letter more than I can tell you and shall treasure it always as one of the most valued mementoes of my life and service in Porto Rico.

I have also received the announcement of your return to the practice of law in your great home city of Cleveland. I am perfectly sure that this will prove a most wise decision on your part both as to location and as to the nature of your work. And I predict for you a happy and prosperous career of usefulness in that great city. If good wishes will aid you, you will certainly have them from a great army of friends and admirers with whom you have been brought into close contact thru your official duties in the great and stirring times thru which the world has passed. And I wish to assure you that none of these friends has more pleasant memories of you, both per-

(16 Mar 21)

Newton D. Baker 2.

sonal and official than myself.

With most cordial good wishes both for you and Mrs. Baker from Mrs. Yager and myself I am

Sincerely your friend,

AV/DLY.

The Filson Historical Society

P. I.
WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON.

May 4, 1921.

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

My dear Governor:

The President desires me to inform you that he has accepted your resignation to take effect on the date of the qualification of your successor, Mr. E. Mont. Reilly, who is to be nominated this week.

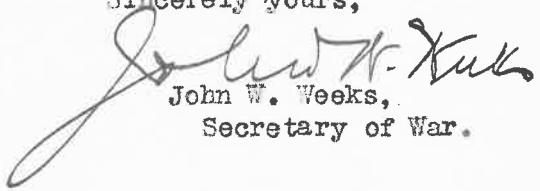
The President desires me to express his appreciation of your service in Porto Rico - a service to the Government of the United States and to the people of Porto Rico.

The President hopes that your services will be appreciated as they merit, both in Porto Rico and in the United States. He wishes you a deserved success in all your future undertakings.

I join sincerely in this good wish.

I am

Sincerely yours,


John W. Weeks,
Secretary of War.

96411

May 17, 1921.

The Honorable John W. Weeks,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:-

I have received your letter of May fourth instance accepting my resignation as Governor of Porto Rico. I appreciate very much the expression of appreciation on the part of the President of my long service in Porto Rico as an officer of the National Government serving in the capacity of chief executive of the island.

I desire to add that I wish and hope for my successor a most successful administration.

I thank you also for your good wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

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