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THE AMERICAN-DOMINICAN CONVENTION 1907
SERVICIO ADUANERO DE LA REPUBLICA DOMINICANA

WALKER W. VICK
RECEPTOR GENERAL
SANTO DOMINGO

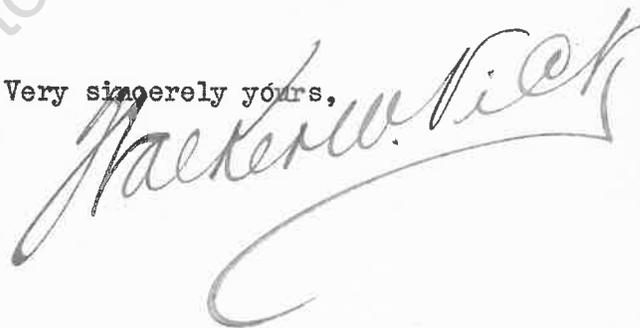
January 17, 1914.

My dear Governor Yager:

I must give myself the pleasure of expressing my appreciation for the generous hospitality which you accorded me during my recent visit to San Juan. I feel greatly strengthened by our conferences and I earnestly hope you will give me the pleasure of welcoming you in Santo Domingo. Please convey my respects to Mrs. Yager and appreciation of her lovely courtesies.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,



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

86x11

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OF PORTO RICO.
BUREAU OF INSULAR TELEGRAPH.

Form. 14A, Tel.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED at:

5 GR K SX, 40 Paid Govt,
Sandomingo-11-March-914-

Yager Portorico,
San Juan.

Because of gleet accomodation and transportation aid would apprecia-
te anything you can consistently do straighten out guanica situation
reference cans boats belteve you are not opposed immigration to sante-
domingo and it would doubtless be beneficial roman.

Vick

1-25pm

94

26x11

The Filson Historical Society

THE AMERICAN-DOMINICAN CONVENTION 1907
SERVICIO ADUANERO DE LA REPUBLICA DOMINICANA

WALKER W. VICK
RECEPTOR GENERAL
SANTO DOMINGO



February 5, 1914.

My dear Governor Yager:

Your good letter of January 23rd is at hand, and I thank you very cordially for writing me concerning Mr. Lewis.

I felt sure that Mr. Lewis was a capable, highclass, official or he would not have been a part of your administration. I regret very much therefore to be compelled to advise you that Mr. Lewis has decided that the work is a little too much of a sedentary character, and expects to go north to visit a sick sister very shortly. We have all grown to like Mr. Lewis very much, and apparently he has been delighted with the personnel of the Receivership, as he seems most appreciative of the treatment accorded him here.

I sincerely hope that you will soon be able to see daylight through the clouds of Governmental affairs to an extent that will enable you to come over and visit us. Those revenue cutters are fast becoming actual, breathing, living, things, so do not be surprised if we have them before you expect.

Please do me the honor of presenting my respects to Mrs. Yager, and with every good wish, I am,

Most faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walker W. Vick".

General Receiver.

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

1128

May 1, 1914.

Mr. Walker W. Vick,
Room 1530 Whitehall Building,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Vick:

Your very kind letter of the 22nd ultimo, containing your cordial invitation to make you a visit, has been received. In the same mail I also received an answer to an inquiry made of the War Department, stating that that Department sees no reason why I should not make the visit I contemplate. I am afraid, however, that the events which have occurred in the last week in San Domingo will cause all parties to reconsider the matter, for I understand that the Island is now in the midst of the worst revolutionary crisis it has experienced in several years. Judging from the cablegrams that have come through my office, I should say that unless Uncle Sam sends a gunboat down there, you and Vance and Orme and the whole push may have to get out of the Island.

However, joking aside, there is another reason that will probably prevent my getting over to San Domingo right away, and that is that Mr. Carrel, the Secretary of Porto Rico, who under the Foraker Act would be Acting Governor in the absence of the Governor, is planning to give up his office and retire in a little while, and when he goes there will be nobody to act as Governor in the

56x11

1-May-14

absence of the Governor until a new appointment of Secretary is made. So you can see my chance for getting over to San Domingo as I had planned does not seem very good just at present. Still my determination is fixed to go sometime and just as soon as I can.

I am glad you are coming back so soon. I hope you can come again to Porto Rico on your way and make us a visit. If Mrs. Vick is coming, Mrs. Yager and I would be pleased and delighted to know her also.

I note with pleasure that you have succeeded so soon in getting a nice boat. It seems to me that the "Hazlyn" would be large enough to make the trip at any-time from San Domingo to San Juan under her own power, and I hope that when you have gotten her in the service we shall see more of you here in Porto Rico.

What will the United States do with the situation at Puerto Plata? It seems to me that something must be done promptly, and I see no reason why we should not make that "something" final and conclusive as to the whole question.

Mrs. Yager joins me in sincere good wishes. I hope that your family will soon be settled in San Domingo and that Mrs. Yager and Mrs. Vick may become acquainted.

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 22, 1914.

My dear Vick:-

It distresses me that you feel obliged to resign your post in San Domingo, in which you have been doing such admirable work and where it made me feel so comfortable that you should be, but I do not feel that I have the right to hold you there if your health or Mrs. Vick's is suffering. I will take the matter under immediate and very careful consideration and do whatever you want done.

May I not take this occasion to express to you my sincere admiration for the way in which you have administered a very difficult task?

Cordially and sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Woodrow Wilson

Hon. Walker W. Vick,
Receiver General,
Santo Domingo.

86 x 11

July 11, 1914.

Mr. Walker W. Vick,
Receiver General,
Santo Domingo, D. R.

My dear Mr. Vick:

Some weeks ago I received your letter expressing very clearly your discouragement with the conditions surrounding the receivership, so that I was not altogether surprised at your resignation which has just been made public, but I am exceedingly sorry nevertheless.

I have taken great pleasure in the thought that you were my neighbor here and engaged in work somewhat similar to mine, and I had constantly anticipated the pleasure of making you a visit, and now I am exceedingly disappointed to have you resign and go back to the United States. I am sure, however, that you have acted conscientiously and intelligently, and, that when all the facts are considered, that you will be entirely justified before your own conscience and the world in the step that you have taken.

I hope you will come to Porto Rico before you go North or come by way of Porto Rico on your way to the States. I would greatly enjoy a long talk with you and I am sure you can explain many things that look now a little mysterious to those of us on the outside.

Major Hunt and Mr. Vance spent a little time in San Juan on their way to Santo Domingo and were with us at the Palace one evening. We enjoyed them immensely. Major Hunt has promised to give us more time on his return. I wish you could manage to come over with him, though of course I do not know what are your plans as to the date of your leaving Santo Domingo.

Write me a letter. With best wishes for you always, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

86x11

THE AMERICAN-DOMINICAN CONVENTION 1907
SERVICIO ADUANERO DE LA REPUBLICA DOMINICANA

WALKER W. VICK
RECEPTOR GENERAL
SANTO DOMINGO

Room 1530 Whitehall Building,
New York City, April 22nd 1914.

My Dear Governor Yager:--

I learned in Washington last week that it was probable you would soon be able to pay us a visit. You know how delighted we will be to see you but I am most anxious to be there to greet you with Mr. Vance. It is probable, unless something turns up to change my plans, that I will return to Santo Domingo about the 15th of May. By that time our new home ought to be ready as well. We want to put our "best foot" foremost when you come as we want you to know how really pleased we will be to have you as the guest of the Receivership.

I might also add that notwithstanding your good natured joking I have secured one of "those" boats. She is the "Hazlyn" a 100 foot, 16 ft beam, gasoline, twin-screw motor launch and is now on the deck being put into shape for the trip. She makes 12 knots and is a roomy, comfortable boat for our service.

I was delighted to hear of the probability of a visit from you as I am deeply appreciative of your courtesy and consideration accorded during my visit to San Juan in January.

Please convey my respects to Mrs. Yager and with every good wish,

Very sincerely yours,

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

Walker W. Vick

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington

April 15, 1914



The Honorable
The Secretary of War.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant in which you ask whether there is any reason known to this Department why a visit to the Dominican Republic on the part of Governor Yager of Porto Rico would be untimely.

In reply the Department desires to say that it sees no reason why Governor Yager should not make the visit he contemplates.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

For the Secretary of State:

ROBERT LANSING

Counselor.

Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department, Washington, D. C.,
April 22, 1914.

Copy to the Governor of Porto Rico, San Juan, P. R.,
reference being had to this bureau's letter of the 7th
instant.

86x11

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WALKER W. VICK
RECEPTOR GENERAL
SANTO DOMINGO

July 23, 1914.

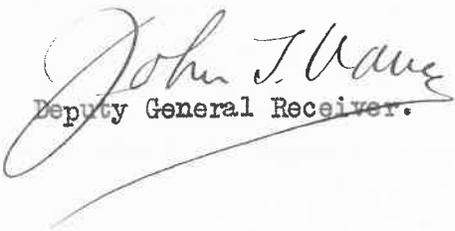


My dear Governor Yager:

This will introduce to you Mr. Julio Senior, who is, and has been for a number of years, special inspector for the Receivership. I have asked him to present my regards to you, and I take this occasion, my dear Governor, of thanking you and Mrs. Yager for your hospitality and courtesies accorded to Major Hunt and myself on our recent trip through Porto Rico, and to extend to you and your family a very warm invitation to visit us at Santo Domingo whenever it will be convenient to you.

With best wishes for Mrs. Yager and yourself I am

Sincerely yours,


Deputy General Receiver.

Governor Arthur Yager,

San Juan, P. R.

Personal File

THE AMERICAN-DOMINICAN CONVENTION 1907

SERVICIO ADUANERO DE LA REPUBLICA DOMINICANA

WALKER W. VICK
RECEPTOR GENERAL
SANTO DOMINGO

July 25th 1914.

My Dear Governor Yager:--

I have just received your very generous letter of the 11th instant, and appreciate most highly the kindly sentiments expressed therein. It has indeed been a pleasure to me to feel that I had such a good friend for a neighbor, and it will be one of the regrets of leaving to be thus separated.

It will be splendid to come via Porto Rico on my way home and I shall try to make my arrangements to do so. I am now awaiting word from the President and also a reply to a cable sent by Major Hunt.

For your confidential information, I enclose herewith copy of a letter which I have had from the President. The letter mailed June 22nd only reached me yesterday morning.

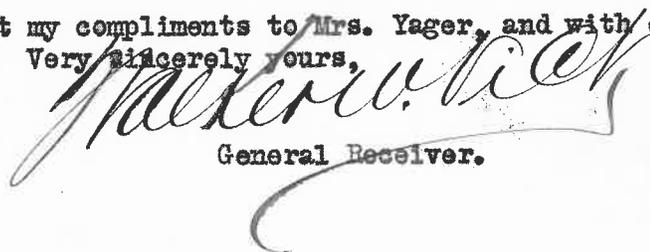
I had looked forward, with great pleasure, to having you pay us a visit and it will be a disappointment to me not to be here to welcome you. There are a great many things connected with the situation here which will prove extremely interesting to the President when he receives a personal report, and I incline to the opinion that Dominican affairs have not been presented to him heretofore.

There can be but little doubt that a conspiracy to exploit this country was well under way, and I am proud of the fact that the Receivership is credited with having broken it up. Personally, I have been working too hard and the strain has been almost too much. Then again Mrs. Vick is not well and I am anxious to get home with her and the children.

Political conditions continue chaotic and anarchy reigns. The Capital is now being besieged by the revolutionists. Shooting is frequent but thus far we have not been molested. However, a bullet entered the lattice work of my bedroom door this morning. The time seems imminent when our Government should take some decisive and definite action.

Major Hunt seemed delighted with his visit to us and we were all glad to have him. I was especially delighted with the report he wrote to me after completing his inspection.

Please present my compliments to Mrs. Yager, and with every good wish, I am,
Very sincerely yours,



General Receiver.

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

86x11

January 26, 1915.

Mr. John Vance,
Deputy Receiver of Customs,
Santo Domingo City. D. P., W.I.

My dear Vance:

I am hoping and planning to make my long delayed visit to Santo Domingo sometime during February or March unless, of course, something happens either here or there to make it inadvisable.

I am writing to ask you some questions relative to it:

First, How large a party would it be convenient or judicious for me to bring along? Several people here are desirous of accompanying me provided it should be perfectly convenient.

Second, Would it be convenient to have some ladies in the party? Mrs. Yager might perhaps come with me and also Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes Thomas, of Kentucky, who will be visiting me in February, if it were convenient.

Third, Will it be possible for me to get transportation from La Romana to Santo Domingo City by any likely means? I should like to go from Guánica to La Romana by one of the cane boats if I can get ready to go before the cane boats cease to run. In that event I should have to arrange in some way to get from La Romana to Santo Domingo City.

(26 Jan 15)

-2-

I might perhaps go over on the "Algonquin," but the "Algonquin" has a peculiarly trying gait in rough weather and on that account I am a little dubious as to using her.

I wish you would write me very fully and frankly about it and I shall act largely in accordance with your suggestions.

I saw some references to the investigation by Senator Phelan in New York City of the unfortunate circumstances connected with the American Minister to Santo Domingo. I regret very much that this public washing of soiled linen should have become necessary but I suppose it could not be helped.

We are all well here and Mrs. Yager joins me in best wishes for you. Write me fully when you can.

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

August 12, 1914.

My dear Mr. Vance:

This is to introduce to you the bearer, Honorable Fabio Fiallo, the Dominican Minister to Cuba who is now returning to Santo Domingo on business. Perhaps you already know him, but if not you will find him a courteous and well-informed gentleman who is well acquainted with the conditions of his country and whose ideas as to the best methods of solving the difficulties there are, in my opinion, eminently sound and sensible.

Any courtesies that you may show him during his visit will, I am sure, not be abused and will be much appreciated both by him and by myself.

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Mr. John Vance,

Santo Domingo City,

Dominican Republic, W. I.

August 26, 1914.

Mr. Walker Vick,
c/o Bureau of Insular Affairs,
War Department, Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Vick:

Your cablegram was duly received and I am trying to shape up a confidential letter to the President upon this subject in such form as will enable me to escape the appearance of "butting in" on a matter that does not concern me officially.

The rumor is current here that the Commission sent down to Santo Domingo will deliver an ultimatum to the revolutionists or somebody on the Island that will bring things speedily to a head.

My oldest son Rhodes and his brother and sister are planning to sail on the "Caracas" next Saturday. They will be in New York perhaps Thursday or Friday and will likely remain one day at the Astor Hotel before going west. Rhodes is right anxious to see you about something, and if you happen to be in New York at that time and could conveniently call him up at the Astor Hotel, he would be glad to get a brief interview with you.

We are all well and I hope that you found your family in good health and spirits upon your arrival.

With sincere regards, I am,

Your friend,

Governor.

11298

October 17, 1914.

Mr. John Vance,
Customs Service,
Santo Domingo, D. R.

My dear Vance:-

I am writing this letter in the interest of Mr. Bayoán L. de Hostos who has been until recently Consul of Santo Domingo at Mayaguez, Porto Rico, but was displaced by one of those transformations in the government service which take place so frequently in that country.

Mr. de Hostos is the brother of my Military Aid whom perhaps you met when you were here this summer. I do not know him personally, but from my knowledge of his brother and of the family I am sure that he is an honest and capable gentleman and worthy of any recognition that the Government of Santo Domingo might give him.

I am told that there is likely to be another turn of officials pretty soon and in that case Mr. de Hostos would have an excellent chance of reappointment to his old position. I am writing this letter in the hope that you might possibly be of assistance to him and if so I am sure you can do what you can with perfect confidence that he is entirely worthy of your help.

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(14 Oct 14)

-2-

The news from Santo Domingo seems to be somewhat scant these days, and upon the principle that "no news is good news" I am led to hope that conditions may be improved.

I am still hoping for a chance to make you a visit. .

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

The Filson Historical Society

WALKER W. VICK
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE
NEW YORK

October 19th, 1914.

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

My dear Gov. Yager:

I trust you will pardon my writing you in connection with an official matter, but I am deeply interested personally in Judge E. B. Wilcox. For this reason I have hoped that he might receive recognition in Porto Rico and understand that his ambition is to become Attorney General. From all I have seen or learned, Judge Wilcox is a lawyer of ability and unquestionable integrity and one who has made good in Porto Rico through his capabilities. While I realize that the subject of attorney generalship is one to which you will necessarily devote a great deal of thought and time, still I trust your consideration of the subject may convince you of Judge Wilcox's fitness for the post.

With sincere regards and best wishes, believe me,

Faithfully yours,

Walker W. Vick
Sp. Rooms 1529-31
Whitehall Bldg
N.Y. City

11 x 28

Vieques, October 20, 1914.

To the Hon. Governor of Porto Rico,

San Juan, Porto Rico.

Sir:

Having been informed that the Mayor of the Municipality of Culebra is about to send in his resignation, I, very respectfully, offer you my services for the position, and hope that my name be had in consideration when the vacancy should be filled.

Any information that you wish about my capacity in the fulfillment of public office, you may obtain it by addressing to the Department of Justice, in whose service I was for a two years time, as Marshall of the Vieques Municipal Court.

Very respectfully,

Juanillofañe

March 17, 1915.

Dear Mr. Vance:-

I am writing this letter to introduce to you my friend Doctor Perea Fajardo who contemplates making a visit to Santo Domingo for business and pleasure.

Doctor Perea is Mayor of Mayagüez and has been for many years a leader in the political affairs of his country. He is, moreover, a gentleman of excellent character and, as you will see, of attractive personality, and I will greatly appreciate any courtesies that you may show him that will add to the pleasure of his visit.

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Mr. J. T. Vance,
Deputy Receiver of Customs,
San Domingo City,
Dominican Republic.

March 19, 1915.

Mr. Walker W. Vick,
16 Addison Avenue,
Rutherford, New Jersey.

My dear Vick:-

I received and read with great interest your statement of February 22nd and was very glad to get it because it cleared up quite fully and satisfactorily some points in the record of events, as published in the newspapers, that seemed for the moment a little confusing.

I was particularly gratified to get your explanation of the necessity of giving out Mr. Bryan's private letter.

I sincerely hope that the whole discreditable business will now be thoroughly cleaned up and that the Democratic Party will get into fighting trim for the campaign of next year which now appears to be looming up as a battle royal.

Please write me occasionally your views as to the situation and outlook, and accept my very best wishes for yourself.

Sincerely your friend,

February Twenty-second, Nineteen Fifteen.

Statement of Walker W. Vick to the Leaders of the Democratic Party

Because of my connection with President Wilson's campaigns and inaugural, my position as Assistant Secretary of the Democratic National Committee and my having held office under the Administration, I have been criticised in certain quarters for my responsibility in bringing about the investigation of James Mark Sullivan, Minister to Santo Domingo. This criticism is based upon a misconception of the facts by some and misrepresentation of the facts by others.

I firmly believe house-cleaning, when necessary, should be done within the Party and so thoroughly and effectively as to leave no opportunity for doubt as to Democratic good faith. The Santo Domingo scandal was a condition which had to be met frankly and squarely by the Democratic party. I endeavored for about eight months to have the State Department give the matter the serious consideration it deserved. Ample facts indicative of the urgent necessity for thorough investigation were presented by many persons besides myself whose motives could not be questioned. Secretary Tumulty has testified I was acting upon instructions of The White House in making reports on the Sullivan situation. It is also true I laid certain facts before Secretary Bryan upon instructions of my superior officer, the Secretary of War. It is not true that I made charges against Minister Sullivan.

Apparently the State Department made no competent investigation before deciding to stand by Sullivan. The Department's "whitewashing" of him created consternation among those having a knowledge of the situation. Mr. Sullivan's own reference to what he termed his "vindication" from The White House (Press dispatch of September 30th, 1914) and his boast that he was returning to Santo Domingo "to stay," left no other honorable course than the one I followed.

My voluntary resignation forwarded to the President June 9th, 1914, was misrepresented in certain quarters, and it was asserted that I would have been removed had I not resigned. Efforts were made to besmirch my character by false affidavits and slanderous statements when Sullivan's defenders found they could not attack my official record.

While regretting the necessity, I felt my duty demanded the facts be laid before the President. This was done by letter of December 1st, 1914. The appointment of Commissioner James Duval Phelan and steps for a competent investigation followed.

A comprehensive presentation of the case to the President required that the facts as I knew them should be supplemented with affidavits and other evidence which I as an individual lacked resources to obtain. *The New York World*—a Democratic and Administration paper—undertook its own investigation at my suggestion and with my co-operation. The results more than corroborated the facts as they had come to me. I refused to co-operate with others whose purposes I believed to have been inimical to the Administration and the Democratic party.

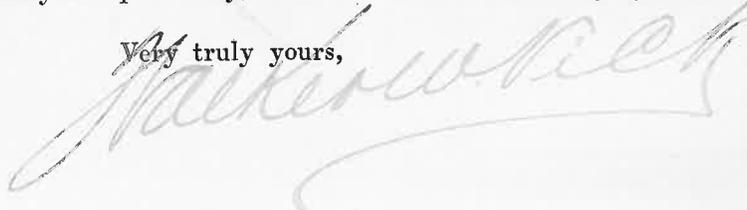
The testimony, as developed by Commissioner Phelan's investigation, speaks for itself. In presenting my testimony, I have not resorted to personalities but have stuck religiously to the issues involved, i. e., Events leading up to the appointment of Mr. Sullivan, his fitness for the post and his actions in office. The necessity for presenting Mr. Bryan's letter arose from the statement contained therein that Mr. Sullivan was "a strong, courageous, reliable fellow"—a prejudgment back of which Mr. Bryan had refused to go.

The record of the investigation shows convincingly Mr. Bryan has been imposed upon by men intent upon selling him and the Democratic party for their own selfish ends.

It is a further duty of the Democratic party to clean up the pernicious lobby whose activities in Tariff, Treaty and other legislation have been only partly brought to light in the record of the Sullivan investigation. A Democratic investigation exposed the Republican lobby. As Democrats, we cannot afford to have the tables turned or allow the Party to become stultified by "revenue only" Democrats serving their own ends.

By compelling a thorough investigation of the Sullivan scandal I have rendered a public service to my Country and discharged a duty to the Administration and the Party. I have no apologies to offer, but do not desire to be misunderstood or misrepresented. No one has given more loyal and devoted service to President Wilson and the Party than I. I stand squarely upon my record of accomplishment and the sacrifices I have been compelled to make, financially and politically, because I would not shut my eyes to a situation that no honest man could ignore.

Very truly yours,



86x11



Chamber of Commerce
of the
United States of America
Riggs Building
Washington, D.C.

March 26, 1915.

Governor Arthur Yager,
San Juan,
Porto Rico.

My dear Governor Yager:

This is just to let you know that some three months ago I left the Review of Reviews and am now editing The Nation's Business for the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. I think there is a chance to do some interesting things.

I remember with the greatest of pleasure and appreciation your very kind reception of me when I was in Porto Rico last fall and I hope sincerely that when you are in Washington again I may have the opportunity to talk with you.

Kindly give my best respects and compliments to Mrs. Yager and Mrs. Lewis, and believe me

Very sincerely yours

Louis Edwin Nowman

P. S. I wonder if our mutual friend, Colonel Burnham, was able to control his excitement when he fired those shots from Morro at the German steamer that tried to run out the other day.

April 12, 1915.

My dear Count Valery:-

We all arrived safe and well at San Juan after a somewhat stormy passage across the Caribbean on Saturday morning.

We are filled with the most charming recollections of our delightful visit to Caracas and of the numberless courtesies and substantial acts of kindness which you extended to us during our stay, for all of which I thank you most heartily both officially and personally.

I am enclosing some of my cards in order to supply the deficiency as to number of those I left with you.

Please remember me most cordially to General Andrade and to Dr. Delgado, and His Excellency President Márquez Bustillo and his family, and all the other officials of the Republic and of the Federal District who did so much to make our stay in Caracas so agreeable.

I shall certainly expect you sometime to visit me in Porto Rico when it would afford me great pleasure to give you an opportunity to see the many things of interest that our Island has to show to visitors.

(12-Apr-15)

With most cordial good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Governor.

Honorable Mateo Valery,

Introducción de los Ministros Públicos,

Caracas, República de Venezuela.

The Filson Historical Society

Abril 14 de 1915.

Distinguido señor Presidente:-

Después de mi agradabilísima visita a Caracas y a Venezuela, he llegado sin novedad a esta isla.

Deseo manifestar a Vd. otra vez, en nombre de mi familia, en el de mis acompañantes y en el mío propio, nuestro agradecimiento por las múltiples atenciones y bondadosos actos de cortesía y hospitalidad que nos dispensaron durante nuestra visita a su bella ciudad y país. Siempre recordaremos los encantadores momentos de que disfrutamos durante este viaje, y de la mayor parte de ellos somos deudores a Vd. y sus familiares, y a los funcionarios de ese Gobierno.

El trayecto de Caracas a Puerto Cabello estuvo lleno de incidentes agradables, y el natural tedio de tan largo viaje fué disipado grandemente por las comodidades que nos brindó el tren especial del Gobierno, por el bien preparado "lunch" y por la simpática compañía del Señor Mateo Valery, por todo lo cual deseo volver a expresar a Vd. mi sincero aprecio.

Esperando que pueda Vd. encontrarse en disposición de visitar a Puerto Rico, y con los más respetuosos saludos para su distinguida señora esposa y demás personas de su honorable familia, quedo, con el testimonio de mi mayor consideración,

De Vd. muy atento y seguro servidor,

Gobernador.

Excmo. Señor Doctor V. Márquez Bustillos,
Presidente Provisional de la República de Venezuela,
Caracas, Venezuela, S. A.

WALKER W. VICK
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE
NEW YORK
#16 Addison Avenue RUTHERFORD, N.J.

April 15th 1915.

Honorable Arthur Yager,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

My Dear Governor:--

Thank you for your good letter of March 19th. It is indeed comforting to have the support of such friends. Mr. Bryan's letter to me, however, was not marked either "private or personal". It came in regular course.

Many discreditable rumors are afloat. I trust they are not true. There seems to be no doubt that Mr. Tumulty is striving to protect Sullivan, and some of the reasons he gives--if true--are truly indicative of smallness. The Commissioner has not yet filed his report. I am told Counsel Strong is busily engaged preparing same. The testimony taken in Santo Domingo apparently was just as damaging to Sullivan as that taken in the United States. The significant thing as to the Dominican testimony was that ex-Governor Fort was shown up in a most discreditable way judging from statements accredited to him by such witnesses as J.H. Edwards, John T. Vance, Frank H. Vedder and Charles M. Johnston. Unless a thorough clean up is obtained, it seems certain a Congressional Investigation will follow. I suppose you have seen the speeches of Congressman Rogers as published in the Congressional Record of February 19th and 26th.

Business seems to be on the up grade. The President maintains the respect, confidence, love, faith and admiration of the people generally as I observe matters. His immediate advisers are seriously injuring the Administration throughout the country though. This is

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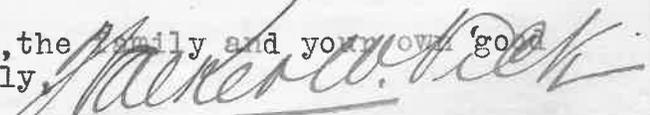
#2 Honorable Arthur Yager.

(15 Apr 15)

based on information which comes to me from many States. I don't believe the President is in touch with the real situation, and as matters are lined up it is extremely hard for him to get the correct viewpoint. This is all the more unfortunate because of his own grand achievements and religious attention to the best interests of the Nation generally.

We would be badly beaten should any election be held now. While Chicago and St. Louis were more or less local, still the fact remains Thompson made his Chicago fight along national lines. Senator Lewis and others accepted the challenge. The result you know. While there were numerous contributing causes of the local sort, yet the country at large has gained the impression that it was a slap at the Administration. I don't believe it too late to remedy conditions, and I sincerely trust and pray something may turn up shortly. Improvement in business will be beneficial, of course, but what we really need is a thorough reorganization. We still have the time if it isn't delayed too long. Secretary Garrison is recognized as President Wilson's greatest asset, I think. Secretary Lane is the other. Those others who are not liabilities are placed in the "colorless" class. Don't think me iconoclastic. I am not. My faith, loyalty and devotion to the President is as unswerving as ever. I have suffered much but I believe I am broad enough to understand the forces and influences that are busily misrepresenting.

Personally, my sacrifices have been so great that I must get to work with the least possible delay. It seems a hard cross to bear at times, when it is considered that I have given four of the best years of my life to the President's cause. I don't want to burden you with any of my troubles. I deeply appreciate your friendship and interest, and wish it were possible to have a good long talk with you.

With best wishes to Mrs. Yager, the family and your own good self.
Very Sincerely, 

May 28, 1915.

Mr. Walker V. Vick,
Rutherford, New Jersey.

My dear Vick:-

Your very kind letter of the 15th ultimo reached me in due course of mail and I greatly enjoyed it.

I have been looking out for the result of the investigation into Santo Domingo matters, but as far as I have noticed, nothing has happened. However, our news service here, as you know, is so slender and when the New York papers come they are so old and come in such heavy batches that it is quite probable that something has happened without our knowing of it. Moreover, there are so many other things of the greatest importance taking place in our big world every day during these times, that many things which would ordinarily attract great attention may be overlooked and forgotten.

I would like awfully to see you and get in touch with the political situation throughout the country as you see it now. What is the likelihood of President Wilson's accepting a renomination, and if he should decline it, what then?

I do not believe that there will be any war between the United States and Germany; but strange things sometimes happen, and the President certainly has a difficult task in piloting the ship of state through all the mine fields and submarines and breakers of the present era of external

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(28 May 15)

and internal problems.

Everything is quiet here in the Island, and the summer promises to be uneventful both from a social and a political point of view. The high price of sugar was of course a great benefit to the industrial conditions here.

I am planning to come to the States for a short rest in September, bringing all of my family with me, and I hope to have a chance to see you and have a long talk at that time, and, meanwhile, I trust I may talk by letter.

The Industrial Relation Commission has granted a hearing at Washington to Mr. Iglesias and other so-called representatives of Porto Rican laborers in order, I suppose, to afford him an opportunity to ventilate false and malicious charges against the Government of Porto Rico on account of its conduct during the strike amongst the sugar workers of the Island. While I have taken steps to have the facts thoroughly set forth before the Commission, I do not know what opinions they may form as to the real conditions here in Porto Rico. It is so easy for the American public to be deceived about these conditions, for they are very different from those of the States, and Mr. Iglesias and his confrères are absolutely unscrupulous and reckless in their statements and have no principles to guide them whatever except that of personal aggrandisement.

With best wishes for you, I am

Sincerely your friend,

May 1, 1916.

My dear Mr. Vilella;

I was much gratified to receive through Mr. E. J. Saldaña the information that you had consented to comply with my request to serve on the Board of Review and Equalization. I made this request of you not only because of your thorough knowledge of the coffee industry and of the value of coffee lands, but also because of your known patriotism and public spirit and also because of your loyalty to the government of the island.

In carrying out this work of reassessment of the property of the island we shall endeavor to manage it in such a way as to be as little burdensome as possible to the members of the Board, but we shall of course be compelled to have meetings of this board in San Juan throughout the work and submit to their decision disputed questions and complaints as to the value and proper assessment of property and the classes of property.

I am sure that you will understand that this task of thoroughly revising the assessment for the whole island, however difficult it may prove to be, is of the utmost importance and the time for doing it is exceedingly opportune. Very great changes in the value of some classes of property have taken place since the last assessment.

(1 May 16)

and there have been many complaints of inequalities in the assessments as heretofore made, and consequently there is every reason for a thorough and complete revision of the whole matter. Moreover, we are undertaking this revision at the command of the Legislature of Porto Rico which has passed a law requiring that this should be done and appropriating money to pay for the expense of it. The legislators were of the opinion that a thorough and fair revision of the assessment will result in a large increase of the total assessments, and as they provided that all the proceeds of taxes from the increased assessments should benefit the insular treasury, it was believed that in this way a sufficient increase of revenues might be provided to enable the insular government to perform its services to the island without embarrassment. So confident were they of this result that they authorized a new issue of bonds of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of completing the road system of the island which was adopted some years ago but which has never been finished. However, this issue of bonds cannot be made unless the expectations of increasing assessments shall be realized. Of course it is thoroughly understood that if our expectations are realized and bonds issued, among the first roads to be built will be those urgently needed highways through the coffee regions.

I mention these matters simply to make clear to

(1 May 16)

-3-

you how important and far-reaching is this work of re-assessment which the Legislature has committed to our hands. I am entirely confident that you can be of great assistance to the government and to the people of Porto Rico by serving in this capacity.

I hope that this letter will find you in the enjoyment of good health, and with best wishes for yourself and for Mrs. Vilella and your entire family, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Mr. Pablo Vilella,
Lares, Porto Rico.

March 15, 1917.

My dear Dr. Veve;

It is with uncommon pleasure that I acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of recent date, expressing felicitations and congratulations upon the passage of the Jones Bill.

I assure you that I appreciate your message very highly and will attempt to organize the new government in thorough accord with the same and sensible suggestions you made at the end of your telegram.

Thanking you most cordially and assuring you of my high personal esteem, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

Dr. Santiago Veve,
Pajardo, P. R.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OF PORTO RICO.
BUREAU OF INSULAR TELEGRAPH.

Form 14A, Tel.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED at:

Aus.

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Fajardo 3-3-917

Honorable Arthur Yager,
Gobernador de Pto-Rico,
Sanjuan.

Señor: Como representante que es Vd del Gran Pueblo Norte America-
no aqui y como primera autoridad de mi pais, reciba sincera feli-
cizacion enviola por haber contribuido eficazmente triunfo nue-
va carta organica para Pto-Rico. Ruegole ahora contribuya efi-
cazmente tambien, implantar nuevo regimen con imparcialidad ca-
racteristica Vd. Respetuosamente,

Santiago Veva.

23

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933am.

The Filson Historical Society

PONCE OFFICE
PONCE, P. R.

GUANICA CENTRALE

NEW YORK OFFICE
62 CEDAR STREET

ENSENADA, P. R. June 11 1917.



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

My dear Governor:-

There are two matters in connection with which I desire to impose a bit upon your valuable time.

I am sure you have not forgotten the conversation I had with you with respect to F. R. Suarez, and while I do not think that it is necessary to remind you, yet it has occurred to me that as the month is nearly up (for which period you thought the matter ought to rest) I would like very much indeed, in fact I cannot urge too strongly that you exercise your clemency in this matter.

Allowing for full responsibility on the part of the individual, a similar case in the States without extenuating circumstances, would have carried with it a penalty no greater than thirty days. In my opinion there are extenuating circumstances in this case, and I believe this fact alone should be with you a strong reason for your action. In this connection I might say an assault was committed a few months ago upon one of our employees in which he was shot and narrowly escaped with his life; the sentence imposed upon his assailant was only three months.

The other matter is the question of the organization of the National Guard. As you will recollect, when last I saw you I mentioned that there were sufficient Americans here of military training of greater or less degree who are willing and anxious to cooperate in the organization of a company. These would furnish a first-rate set of officers; in fact as good, in my opinion, as could be obtained anywhere.

As you know, this is the season when we have the most liberty and

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could give the most and best attention to the organization and up-building of a company. Further, they are now in the frame of mind to take the matter up; in fact they have asked me once or twice what progress was being made in the matter. It seems to me, therefore, that they are likely to lose some of their interest, and it may be they may get out of the notion entirely if the matter is long delayed.

Further, it will be necessary for me to make a trip to the States some time after the middle of August, and if it is to be my privilege to cooperate with you in this matter it would be better to get busy at once in order that the organization may be well in hand before that time.

Will you please write me fully in the matter and let me know just what the situation is.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Very sincerely,



HMCV:DR

The Filson Historical Society

June 12, 1917.

My dear Mr. Vedder:

Your letter of the 9th instant has just been received.

As you perhaps already know, I signed unconditional pardon for Mr. F. R. Suarez before your letter reached me, and so that matter is out of the way.

As to the organization of the national guard, I have been much delayed by circumstances which I mentioned to you when we were discussing the matter. However, I have appointed Dr. Riera Lopez of Ponce as a regimental surgeon and instructed him to examine the men who apply for enlistment at that place and get them in as rapidly as possible.

As soon as he has gotten this work under way at Ponce and formed at least a skeleton company or two there, I shall instruct him to go over to Guanica and examine the men over there; in fact I have no objection to his going to Guánica first if he is willing to do so and if you get ready before they do at Ponce. I want the men examined and the companies enlisted as quickly as it can be possibly be done.

General Mc Intyre has written me that if we desire to keep the national-guard regiment permanently in Porto Rico and let the other regiments go to the front, it

(12 June 17)

-2-

would be safest not to include in the national guard men who are between the ages of 21 and 31. Perhaps we might include these men at the start, however, and then when we come to make the selective draft for the regiments to be formed under the conscription law we could replace those drawn out of the national-guard regiment with other volunteers who were over 31. But however this may be, I am anxious to form the national guard as promptly as possible, and if you fellows at Guánica, including Yauco if necessary, will get yourselves examined by Dr. Riera Lopez and form a company, you could unite with the two companies which we propose to form at Ponce, and organize a battalion with headquarters at Ponce.

With best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

Mr. H. M. C. Vedder,
Guánica Centrale,
Ensenada, Porto Rico.

June 27, 1917.

Mr. John T. Vance,
Deputy Receiver,
San Domingo City.

My dear Vance;

Your very kind letter containing an invitation for me and my family to visit you in San Domingo before our election July 16, was duly received.

I appreciate the invitation very much indeed and have been holding my reply for a week or two in the hope that I could see my way to accept. You know I have wanted for two or three years to make this visit.

In your very excellent summary of the pressing obligations that would be upon me for the summer and fall you omitted one very important duty that is occupying my whole time almost at the present, and that is the military registration of the young men of Porto Rico. Active preparation for this has been upon us for two or three weeks and we are now awaiting the President's proclamation fixing the date in order to make this registration and get done with it. However, the date has not been fixed by the President and so we can not tell when we will get it done. I had hoped that this might be done early enough in July for me to have time for a brief visit to San Domingo before the election; but this now seems impossible. I am awfully

(27-June 17)

-2-

sorry.

Mrs. Yager and Miss Diana also greatly regret that we can't get over next month. I fear this is my last chance this summer and fall. I think I could be helpful in advising the President when I see him as to what should be our national policy with reference to San Domingan problems. I would like awfully to have a frank and confidential talk with you about men and conditions in your island. Can you not come over to see me? We could of course talk here, and I would be awfully glad to see you. Be sure to bring Mrs. Vance.

Thanking you for your kind invitation and still hoping for a chance to accept some time or other, I am as always,

Sincerely your friend,

Governor.

DEPUTY GENERAL RECEIVER
OF
DOMINICAN CUSTOMS
SANTO DOMINGO

May 31, 1917.

My dear Governor:-

A number of times in the past you have promised to make a visit to Santo Domingo, but have always been prevented from doing so by revolutions here, important matters requiring your presence in Porto Rico, or by your various trips to the United States in the interest of the Porto Rican Organic Act. Now that the revolutions have been stopped in Santo Domingo, Bill Jones is disposed of and matters are quiet in Porto Rico, I hope that you will be able to so arrange matters as to pay us a visit.

The Marina, of the Bull Insular Line, makes weekly trips from San Juan to Santo Domingo City, and is a very comfortable boat. This is also a particularly opportune time for you to visit us, as, owing to the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Baxter in the United States, suitable quarters are available for the entertainment of yourself and family. I am also married now and with the assistance of Mrs. Vance feel better qualified to make your stay pleasant.

I understand that you have an election in Porto Rico in July and a meeting of the legislature in August, which will probably occupy your time until well toward the end of the year, and therefore hope that you may find it convenient to visit Santo Domingo before the long grind begins. The change would, I believe, be of benefit to you, and there are many things here which would keenly interest you. Aside from the pleasure which we would derive from your visit, I believe you might also be of great service in securing a definite policy regarding the intervention, by being able to present your views of conditions here in the proper quarters, from personal observation.

Please present my compliments to your family, and believe me, with kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



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

DEPUTY GENERAL RECEIVER
OF
DOMINICAN CUSTOMS
SANTO DOMINGO

August 10, 1917.

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

Dear Governor Yager:

Your letter of June 27th was duly received and I was very sorry indeed to learn that you could not conveniently come over and pay us a visit this summer. You have been promising this visit so long, and we are now really so much closer with the weekly and bi-weekly sailings of the "Santo Domingo" and "Marina" respectively, with the "Santiago de Cuba" thrown in once a month for good measure, not to mention the tranquillity of the island due to the presence of Uncle Sam's military representatives, that I confidently hoped to see you and your family before the summer was well on its way. However I am doomed to disappointment again, and have come to the conclusion that perhaps the only way after all to have you come over will be to go over for you.

Mrs. Vance and I are seriously thinking of making a little trip to Porto Rico some time in the fall after Mr. and Mrs. Baxter return. Certainly we shall go before the end of the year and spend a week or ten days in the island when we shall be very glad to accept your hospitable invitation to visit you for a few days.

A cousin of my wife, Miss Mary Brita Bergland, of Baltimore, has been visiting us since the middle of July and is leaving Sunday via the S. S. "Marina" for San Juan where she will take the New York and Porto Rico steamer on Wednesday. She will be at the Eureka Hotel during her short stay and I am going to request Mrs. Yager and Miss Diana to do her the honor of calling upon her. Her mother is a Kentuckian, nee McFarland, of Lexington, who married Major Bergland U. S. A. retired, and through her

(10 Aug 17)

mother is related to the Alexanders of Woodford. That should be enough data for two Kentuckians to almost scrape up relationship, but at any rate Mrs. Vance and I shall appreciate very much this favor that I ask.

Although peace reigns supreme in Santo Domingo we are not making much progress in governmental development, which I attribute mainly to the overshadowing of the smaller Dominican problem by the great war question that we have taken up. Santo Domingo has been shoved into the pending files for an indefinite period. The Military Government claims that reforms could be made forthwith if they had the authority. It strikes me we ought to have a civil government as soon as possible. A military government, especially when it is administered by the Navy, doesn't seem to have the experience requisite for a speedy solution and remedy for this government's ills.

But these are matters that are difficult to take up through correspondence and I hope to have an opportunity to see you before the year is ended and have a good long talk over the Dominican question, for I know that you can be of inestimable service to us in bringing our needs to the attention of the President.

With kindest regards to you and the members of your family, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

John P. Vance

August 20, 1917.

Mr. John T. Vance,
Deputy General Receiver,
Santo Domingo.

My dear Vance:

Your letter of the 10th instant, conveying the information that Miss Bergland, of Baltimore, would be in San Juan for the purpose of sailing to New York on Wednesday the 15th instant, reached me in the afternoon of the 15th after the boat had sailed and too late for Mrs. Yager and Miss Diana to call upon Miss Bergland.

We regretted this very much, for both of the ladies would have been very glad to meet Miss Bergland.

Upon examining the envelope of your letter I find that it was mailed in San Juan on August 15, at 3:30 p.m.; consequently the delay was not due to the Post Office.

I note with pleasure that you and Mrs. Vance are seriously thinking of making a trip to Porto Rico in the fall, and I wish to assure you that we should be very glad to see you here at the palace and I hope that you will carry out your purpose.

I am still thinking of my long-discussed visit to Santo Domingo. The legislature is now in session. I hope that after some two or three weeks when they shall have gotten started and after I will have finished my

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annual report, I might have an opportunity for a brief visit to Santo Domingo with Mrs. Yager and Miss Diana, possibly the latter part of September or the first part of October. If it should appear possible, I may write you about it some days before the date of starting and see whether it would be convenient all round for me to do so. At any rate I am hoping that we shall be able to get together and talk over the matters of mutual interest and give to the ladies of our families an opportunity to make each other's acquaintance.

Let me hear from you occasionally. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely your friend,

FACTORY PRODUCTS EXPORT CORPORATION

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PARIS
BONBRIGHT & Co.
12 RUE HALÉVY
WALKER W. VICK
GENERAL MANAGER

February 14, 1918.

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

My dear Governor Yager:

This will be presented to you by my very good friend, Don Juan E. Paris of Maracaibo, Venezuela, who is making a short stay in Porto Rico.

In addition to our personal feeling for Mr. Paris, we enjoy very pleasant business relations with the Venezuela Sugar Company, an American Corporation with its central in Venezuela, of which he is the directing spirit.

Any courtesies or assistance you may be able to give him will be greatly appreciated.

With best personal regards, we are,

Very truly yours,

FACTORY PRODUCTS EXPORT CORPORATION

WWV-JSW

Walker W. Vick
GENERAL MANAGER.

March 13, 1918.

Col. R. H. Van Deman,
Chief, Military Intelligence Branch,
Office of the Chief of Staff,
War Department, Washington, D. C.

Sir;

Your letter of the 23rd ultimo, suggesting that an investigation be made by the Auditor of Porto Rico of the American Colonial Bank here in San Juan, P. R., has been received. The report made to you by the Chief of the Insular Police, under date of January 5, 1918, was also enclosed in your letter, and after a conference with the Chief of Police I am convinced that so many important changes have been made in the management and conditions of this bank since the date of his report to you that it is not now necessary or advisable to have such an investigation made. In the first place, the most suspicious point in connection with the American Colonial Bank was its relation to Müller, Schall & Co. of New York. Not only has this relation practically ceased, but the New York bank of Müller, Schall & Co., has itself been reorganized under the supervision of the Federal authorities at Washington and its loyalty assured to the satisfaction of the American Government. In addition to this, many changes have been made in the directory of the American Colonial Bank here, and those directors of German birth or of Ger-

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON



February 23, 1918

To The Honorable,
The Governor of Porto Rico.

Sir:

We have received a report relative to the American Colonial Bank at Porto Rico, which indicates that many of the directors of this institution have profound German sympathies, and we should like to have an investigation made by the Auditor of Porto Rico in order to determine whether or not the bank has been assisting in enemy trading in any way. We enclose for your information and for that of the Auditor a report of the Commanding Officer of the Insular Police relative to this institution.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. H. Van Deman".

R. H. Van Deman
Colonel, General Staff
Chief, Military Intelligence Branch,
Executive Division.

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TKS

February 23, 1918

To The Honorable,
The Governor of Porto Rico.

Sir:

We have received a report relative to the American Colonial Bank at Porto Rico, which indicates that many of the directors of this institution have profound German sympathies, and we should like to have an investigation made by the Auditor of Porto Rico in order to determine whether or not the bank has been assisting in enemy trading in any way. We enclose for your information and for that of the Auditor a report of the Commanding Officer of the Insular Police relative to this institution.

Very truly yours,

R. H. Van Daman
Colonel, General Staff
Chief, Military Intelligence Branch,
Executive Division.

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C O P Y.

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GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
I N S U L A R P O L I C E.

Headquarters.

January 5, 1918.

Lieut. Colonel Orval P. Townshend,
Commanding Officer, P. R. Regiment,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

Sir:

Replying to your letter from the Chief, Military Intelligence Section, regarding subject "American Colonial Bank of San Juan, Porto Rico", requesting information if this bank is connected with and has any connection with German interests and if they are violating any of the provisions of Trading with the Enemy Act.

To the above I reply first submitting to you the annual report of the American Colonial Bank of Porto Rico submitted April 20, 1917.

Taking first upon the list of directors: William Schall, Jr. 45 William St. New York; they are all undoubted German extracts, the entire family having connections in Germany at the present time, although it is my understanding that William Schall Sr. was born in the United States, that his sons William and Charles were born in the United States, that William Schall, Junior, is a Junior Lieutenant in the Navy and was during the last summer months an officer aboard the experimental ship on which Mr. Edison was experimenting with devices to locate submarines. It is evident that considerable confidence was placed in this reserve officer, if they permitted him to remain while these investigations and experiments were being carried on. Charles Schall, Jr. is an active member of the firm Muller Schall & Co., 45 William St. New York, and in December came to Porto Rico and by direction of the United States Secret Service of the Navy Department was subjected to a thorough search both coming and going. Through my investigation it was conclusively proven that he was here in Porto Rico to separate the firm of Muller Schall & Co. from that of Schluter and Hernandez, German-Americans with whom they were connected. A separation from this firm was effected. Charles Schall personally assured me that they did this for the fact that they wished to establish without any manner of doubt to the American Government that they were loyal Americans. He further

OFFICE CHIEF OFFICER
WAR COLLEGE DIVISION

REC'D
JAN 4
1918

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WAR DEPARTMENT

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told me about his firm being on the black list but that they have been removed from the black list. He also stated that he had seven naturalized Germans in his office at 45 William St. New York, but that he had reported this to the Federal authorities and requested them to take them over but that the Federal authorities had returned them his custody and that he kept them under his personal supervision and surveillance.

The second member of this bank, E. Pavenstedt is a well known German at 45 William St. and undoubtedly interested both in Muller Schall & Co. and the American Colonial Bank of Porto Rico.

Percy Chubb: I do not know.

Mr. F. A. Dillingham, 62 Cedar St. New York; I know him personally and know him to be an American, sound, true and loyal.

Charles W. Cox: I do not know.

James H. Post: I do not know.

A. Rauschenplat is the head of the firm Fritze Lundt & Co. Insurers and brokers of San Juan, Porto Rico and is a German married to a Porto Rican and has a large family. He was Acting German Consul for a time here but has lived in Porto Rico twenty years more or less. He is a German but has tried in every manner, way and form to abide by the Rules and Regulations governing German subjects in this country. As the head of Fritze Lundt & Co. he represents big English Insurance Syndicate and an American Marine Insurance Company. This firm of Fritze Lundt with Mr. Rauschenplat as President and Treasurer is composed entirely of three Germans and the English government and the American Government must have excellent ground upon which to base their confidence and continue their business under their direction.

Mr. Luis Toro, 250 Fifth Avenue, New York, is the President of the Porto Rican American Tobacco Company, believed to be a gentleman of sound judgment and American principles and sympathies.

Angel Gonzalez is a Spaniard with undoubted pro-German sentiments.

Luis Rubert, likewise.

Mr. Frank M. Welty, Cashier and Vice President of the American Colonial Bank is recognized as pro-German by many people in San Juan, but this attitude on his part, in my judgment, is for the fact that his interests are with Germans. He has been

(5-Jan-18)

criticized much for association with Germans recently since war was declared by the United States. I call your attention to the attached clipping of THE TIMES dated San Juan, P. R., Jan. 4, 1918, where Mr. Frank M. Welty has been made a member of the firm Muller Schall & Co.

Another member of the Board of Directors of this Bank who will be entered in this year's report is William Korber, Jr. and who purchased 1330 shares of this Bank so as to be eligible for one of the Board Directors. He is a German and took out his papers and became an American citizen on April 2, 1917, and is at the head of the firm Korber & Co. of San Juan. There is no doubt but what this member is very much pro-German, handled all business between German ships and all German shippings for years in Porto Rico for the Hamburg American Line and all German interned vessels were financially under Korber's direction.

It is the general impression that this Bank is very much connected with German interests; as to whether or not they are violating any of the provisions of the Enemy Act, this I cannot say, but recommend that an investigation along these lines be placed in the hands of the Auditor of Porto Rico who has absolute authority to examine transactions and disposition of funds.

Assuring you all my cooperation along any lines should you further desire my assistance, I remain,

Yours most respectfully,

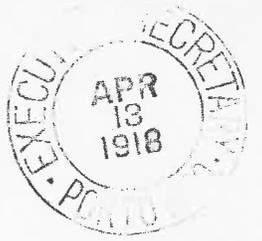
P.

Colonel, Insular Police.

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RF



My dear Governor:—

It was a pleasure for me to have been able to receive Mrs. Gager and yourself in my house at Mayaguez. What I regret is that I was not able to give you all the comfort that I should have liked to offer you, but I suppose you know the

26x11

difficulties an unmarried man has to suffer with housekeeping.

The Agricultural Congress held here was very successful, but I believe its real success lies in the fact that it will serve as the foundation for the future development of other Agricultural Conferences.

Kindly present my respects to Mrs. Gayer and Miss Gayer and with best wishes for yourself

I am,

Respectfully yours,

J. Valdez

4/12/18

September 13, 1918.

Mr. F. Vall-Spinosa, Chairman,
Porto Rico Vigilance Corps, of the
American Defense Society,
Box 1176, San Juan, Porto Rico.

Dear Sir:

Your very kind letter of the 11th instant was duly received.

I appreciate very much your kind expressions of thanks to me personally for the part that I was able to take in aiding your Society in the very successful celebration of Lafayette Day which we had at the theatre on the evening of the 9th instant.

I wish also to congratulate you personally and all of the members of your Vigilance Corps for your very efficient part in the successful affair; and I hope that we shall have many more occasions when we shall have the pleasure of cooperating in emphasizing the very cordial relations which exist between our own country and our noble ally the Great French Republic.

Very sincerely yours,

Governor.

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F. Vall-Spinosa, *Presidente*,
José Gordils, *Vice-Presidente*,
Dr. J. Lugo Viña, *Vocal*,
Vicente Texera, *Tesorero*,
Diego Carrión, *Secretario*.

PORTO RICO VIGILANCE CORPS.
OF THE AMERICAN DEFENSE SOCIETY.
BOX 1176. SAN JUAN, P. R.

Sept. 11, 1918.

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

My dear Governor:-

At a meeting of our committee held on the 9th inst., I was instructed to write you expressing our sincere appreciation for the help rendered to the American Defense Society of Porto Rico in making the celebration of Lafayette Day so successful all over the Island.

Your proclamation was timely and most patriotic, as well as scholarly. Your speech on Lafayette at the Municipal Theater in the evening, was most inspiring, your knowledge of the man and historical connections being very instructive, and received with delight by the appreciative audience.

The hearty way in which you cooperated with us to make the Theater meeting the big success it was, is greatly appreciated by the Committee and its sincere thanks are extended to you.

We feel proud of the celebration, and rejoice that we have a Governor who showed such willingness and patriotism in helping us attain our goal - to let the people know the great part Lafayette took in creating America's debt to beloved France, a debt now being paid on the battlefields of Northern France.

Sincerely yours,



Chairman, Porto Rico Vigilance Corps
of the American Defense Society.

11978

Fajardo San Juan, Puerto Rico 18

Mr.

Arthur Jager

Gobernador de Pto. Rico

Mi estimado Gobernador: Los
lineas, solemnemente para darle a
vd. las gracias por el esfuerzo
que hizo vd., a fin de que yo me
llevara el remate de la Lana
de Casa-Blanca.

Lamento que la muerte no me
fuere favorable, aun que yo te-
nia la seguridad de que no
estando presente, era muy di-
fícil obtener la buena pro,
concurriendo al acto personas
que por su patriotismo y por
sus desahogada posiciones eco-
nómicas harian esfuerzos pa-
ra salir triunfante.

Sea todo modo, me queda
la satisfaccion de haber con-
tribuido al buen éxito obteni-
do.

Sea vd. atentamente

Santiago Neve

11x28

January 18, 1919.

My dear Senator;

I received sometime ago the beautiful box of cigars which you so kindly sent me in the name of the Three Kings. I have already tried them and find that the cigars are as fine as the box.

*Thanking you for the recuerdo, I am,
Sincerely yours,*

Governor.

*Honorable Ramón Valdés,
San Juan, Porto Rico.*

11x98



RE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
PARTICULAR



The Governor of Porto Rico
and Mrs. Zager

RECEIVED BY CENSOR

San Juan Porto Rico

11x98

The Filson Historical Society

Sⁿ Juan (P.R.), 12 de febrero de 1919

Excelentísimo señor

Arturo Yager,
Gobernador de Puerto Rico.

Su palacio

Excelentísimo señor: — De tal manera grata me fue la conversacion que ayer tuve con S. E. que como una prolongacion de ella van estas letras, aun cuando nada nuevo tengo que decirle; pero cuando el asunto interesa es siempre ameno y siempre nuevo, si nuestra palabra es oida con la benevolencia que singularize a S. E.

Es una insistencia de mi ansiedad por la ventura de mi patria la que pone la pluma en mi mano para trazar estos renglones, a fin de hacer mi palabra perdurable en la memoria de Su Excelencia y con tal proposito le repito: "En su viaje a Washington S. E. lleva el porvenir de mi

1198
86x11

The Filson

patria i las esperanzas nuestras." Le imploro, pues, a personarse de este trascendental designio del destino, que, si es ajeno a la autoridad de que está investido, no está peleando con su corazón.

En nuestros apuros patrióticos S. E. aparece, obsérvelo bien, como un elegido de Dios para allanar nuestras dificultades. No nos deje, pues, de la mano, que nuestra patria sabrá corresponderle como a bienhechor suyo.

Adios!...; que el cielo, la mar i los vientos le sean propicios

Su admirador

Roberto Vargas

The Filson Historical Society

April 15, 1919.

Messrs. R. E. Vaughan & Co.,
Starks Building,
Louisville, Ky.

Gentlemen:

The package containing the suit of clothes was received in fair condition.

I am enclosing my check for \$40.75 as per your statement which is also enclosed.

The fit of the vest and trousers is not entirely satisfactory, but I think I can use the suit very comfortably until sometime when I may secure an alteration.

Please return receipt to me.

Yours very truly,

Governor.

July 25, 1919.

Captain R. J. Van Deusen, U. S. A.,
Office of the Judge Advocate General,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Van Deusen:

Your letter was received some two or three weeks ago, but unfortunately I have mislaid it in some way and so am writing without having the letter before me. I took it upstairs for Mrs. Lewis to read, and I am sure she has put it away in some hiding place and forgotten where she put it.

I was very glad to hear from you and especially so to learn that you were still in the Service and finding plenty to do. Some one told me here that it was announced in the Army & Navy Journal that you had been sent back to Porto Rico to be discharged, but I suppose that this was a mistake.

Major Wilson and his wife sailed to New York last Wednesday for a vacation trip. The Major, by the way, has written up an excellent report of the military registration and selective draft in Porto Rico. It is a full and complete history of this whole business in Porto Rico, with newspaper clippings and photographs illustrative of the proceedings, public meetings, etc., connected with the drawings, and other public incidents of the draft. I suppose you have seen this as it was sent up to General Crowder's office. I think it ought to be published, and I wish you would interest yourself in securing its publication by the Provost Marshal General's office, and have a considerable number of copies sent to us.

Of course you know Mrs. Yager is in Chautauqua, New York, with Miss Diana, and has by this time been joined by the other children for a few weeks. At last account her health was already better, and I am sure will rapidly improve under the influence of the children from whom she hates to be separated.

Colonel Jarvis, the new commander of the Porto Rican Regiment, has made an excellent impression, and is a good man and a fine officer.

Colonel Townsend, has been ordered to Leaven-

(25 Jul 19)

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worth, Kansas, for a year of study in the Military College, to take a special course in the new tactics evolved from the late war.

As you know, there has been for a long time a terrible congestion of passenger traffic going north. It has continued steadily up to the present and now the New York harbor strike has temporarily, at least, stopped all the mail and passenger boats, and if this lasts for any length of time Porto Rico will be in a very critical condition. We will all have to stay down here and eat "frutos menores", and fruits.

Mrs. Lewis and I are both fairly well. I am still very busy notwithstanding the adjournment of the Legislature has caused some mitigation of the rush. The Legislature sat for nearly five months including the short recess of twelve days at the end, but they adjourned sine die in good humor, and with a fine spirit of cooperation with the Governor, notwithstanding the vetoes of some of their important bills.

I have no time to write more. Mrs. Yager joins me in the most cordial good wishes for Mrs. Van Deusen, and yourself.

Let me hear from you when convenient.

Sincerely your friend,

March 6, 1919.

Captain R. J. Van Dusen,
San Juan, P.R.

My dear Captain:

I have received your various letters and we will all do what we can here about the allowances for the medical officers.

I am leaving for Kentucky today and will be back in about a week.

I have appreciated your letters and inclosures very much. No time to write.

Very sincerely,

September 17, 1919.

My dear Captain:

Your letter of August 22d was received promptly. I was very much interested in the various news items which it contained.

I hope that they found Major Wilson's report, and will publish it.

You will remember the arrangement you and I made for continuing the payroll of Major Wilson's office for a while after you left, by which I would pay the employees in his office and then be reimbursed by the Selective Service officials of Washington. About a month ago they sent to me the files of two of those payrolls, one of them was duly approved, and I suppose sent to me by mistake, as there was no disbursing officer here to pay that voucher. The other one was disapproved on the ground, as was stated, that it was assumed that the office had been closed on the date when they had been notified that the records were shipped, which date was about three months before the close of the month of the last payroll. As Major Wilson was away I could not get entirely complete information about the circumstance, but I ascertained that Major Wilson's office was not closed when the records were shipped, but was continued two or three weeks for the winding up of certain work

(17 Sept 19)

which seemed to be entirely legitimate. I therefore, sent both vouchers and files up to General Walcott, asking him to take up the matter with you and see that the approved voucher was sent to the proper paymaster who could send me a check for the money, and that the other voucher be sent back to the proper office with explanations of all the facts. I suppose that General Walcott has talked this over with you, if not, I would be obliged if you would call at the Bureau and ask him what was done with them.

I presume that Major Wilson is now on the boat coming to Porto Rico, and will arrive to-morrow. I am very anxious to see him because I want to take up promptly the organization of the National Guard in Porto Rico.

Mr. Barcelo is also on this boat, I understand, and I shall be glad to get from him his impressions of his conferences, and the general situation at Washington.

Mrs. Yager and Miss Diana, as you know, have been in the states all summer, and I do not yet know exactly when they will return. Mrs. Yager writes that she is much better in her health, and all the children are fairly well. Mrs. Lowe is getting on about as usual for here though she is not at all strong, in fact, is so frail that I hesitate to have her undertake a trip to Kentucky, which we had planned for next month. Moreover, there are many important things coming up here during October, and

(17 Sept 19)

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I am doubtful whether I myself ought to leave the island for that month. I am myself feeling quite well; and the island in general seems to be getting along quite as well as we could expect, under the circumstances, which affect the whole world. An unusually large number of our important people here have been out of the island this summer, but now many of them are coming back.

The cigarmakers' strike was settled about six weeks ago, and the factories have opened up again with unusually fine prospects for increased business.

Remember me most cordially to Mrs. Van Dusen, and write me again when convenient.

Mrs. Lunde joins me in best wishes for you both.

Sincerely your friend,

Captain R. J. Van Dusen, U.S.A.,

Office of the Judge Advocate General,

Washington, D. C.

4.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL,
WASHINGTON.

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

State, War and Navy Bldg.
August 22, 1919.

My dear Governor;

As you suggested in your letter of the 25th of July, I took up with General Crowder the matter of printing Major Wilson's report of the registration and selective service in Porto Rico. The Office of the Provost Marshal General is now out of existence and the unexpended balance appropriated for their work was covered back into the Treasury; but some three and a half million dollars was reappropriated for the preservation of the draft records and charged to the Office of the Adjutant General of the Army. I went to see Mr. Keiper in General Harris' office, and he suggested that the report which you said you thought had been sent to General Crowder's office be transmitted to the Office of the Adjutant General's Office and they would give it consideration and perhaps have it published. I have asked the Adjutant to see if he can locate the report in the files of the Provost Marshal General and forward it with recommendation for printing to the Adjutant General of the Army.

Major Wilson called me up one day and we took lunch together. I was of course delighted to see him and he brought all the latest news from the Island. He had a copy of his report with him and I read it thru hastily and found it to be indeed very comprehensive and interesting.

Last night I saw Major Fiddler. General Crowder, Col. Trent and he returned last week from Cuba, and Fiddler said he was expecting to get out of the service this week. He looks fine, and in a previous conversation I had with the General he spoke very highly of Fiddler. The night before, I met Major Tingle. He said that was the first he had been out at night in 8 weeks. His little daughter Josephine was at death's door with pneumonia, but Dr. Ashford in consultation with one of the leading physicians from the Georgetown Hospital pulled her thru and she is now convalescing. Captain Barr is here acting as auditor for the Director of Finance and engaged in the checking of the property accounts at the nearby camps, arsenals, schools, etc. His family arrived from Cuba day before yesterday and he has brought them on to Washington.

I had a chat with Judge Cordova Davila (who recently married Frank Martinez' sister), Mr. Barcelo, Frank Martinez and Enrique Bird, Jr. They were on the roof garden of the Washington Hotel having dinner; Mrs. Cordova Davila was with them but I did not meet her, because they saw me first and came over from their table to speak to me. Of course you remember Perkins. I met him the other day dressed in civilian clothes and had quite a long chat with him. I had been seeing him previous-

(22 Aug 19)

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ly dressed in the uniform of a Captain of Artillery and while his face was familiar I could not place him; I mentioned this fact to him and he said yes, he had just taken off his uniform a couple days ago, having been discharged.

The order that I report at the camp in Porto Rico for discharge was issued thru mistake. When I reported for duty with the Judge Advocate General, the Provost Marshal General reported me to the Adjutant General as relieved from duty in his office; but it seems that the office of the A.G. forgot my previous detail and ordered my discharge, and then revoked the order subsequently when the matter was brought to their attention by this office. I understand they were making inquiries about me at the Camp and planning a "reception" for me; but, alas! another disappointment. My work is very interesting now. Since early July I have been detailed as Examiner for the Special Clemency Board (Lt.Col. Ansell, President; he's out, now Col. Weeks), and my duties are the examination of the records of courts-martial cases and the recommendation of clemency where it appears from the record that the sentence imposed is too severe. There is no telling when I will be discharged, and I could perhaps stay in the service if I wanted to. Lt. Cols. and Majors are leaving right along, and it is just possible that before I am discharged my number for promotion may be reached and I be given a majority.

I read with interest the Dyer resolution introduced in Congress with reference to the P.R. status and referendum. It looked to me like the "same old thing" only worded differently.

Yesterday morning I met Frank E. Adams, the owner of La Mallorquina, and his family. They had motored over from Philadelphia the day before and I rode out to Arlington with them. Adams will be remembered by Shanton as Inspector of Police and prior to his going into the restaurant business was interested in the exportation of tobacco and had been an I.G. employee since the change of sovereignty in the Island. He told me the tobacco workers were still on strike and that he had to send to P.R. to get some cigars because there were none obtainable in New York or anywhere he had been in the States. That certainly represents a tremendous loss all around -the company, the people and the insular treasury.

I met "Uncle Joe" Cannon on the street one evening and walked way down town with him; we chatted about Porto Rico and things down there generally. He seemed quite familiar with it all.

Mrs. Van is now visiting friends in New York and I suppose is about ready to come to Washington. She had a delightful stay up in the country with my sister. I was glad to hear that Mrs. Yager was improving and hope that she is now entirely well. I hope Mrs. Lewis and yourself are keeping well, and that Miss Betty is getting on nicely. With the very kindest remembrances for you all, and very best wishes for you personally, I am,

Sincerely, your friend,

B. Van Dusen.

The Rockefeller Foundation
61 Broadway, New York

December 12, 1919

My dear Governor Yager:

In reply to your invitation to the Rockefeller Foundation to send a representative to Porto Rico to aid in the sanitation work of the island, it gives me pleasure to introduce to you Dr. John B. Grant, who will make a preliminary survey. It is hoped that Dr. Victor G. Heiser may come at a later date to confer with you and Dr. Soler.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

George E. Vincent

The Honorable Arthur Yager
Government House
San Juan, Porto Rico

11x11

May 15, 1920.

Mrs. José Valiente,
Cayey, Porto Rico.

My dear Mrs. Valiente:

I have not found opportunity heretofore to express to you my appreciation of your kindness to me while at Jajome Alto, in furnishing me milk and other supplies, during the time of my stay there. I assure you that this was a very valuable and much appreciated service, and I wish to express to you my thanks. I hope that upon my return to Porto Rico I shall be able to see something of you when I am at Cayey, and find opportunity sometime to reciprocate the service that you have rendered.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Governor.