

HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT OF SAN JUAN.

San Juan, Porto Rico, December 8, 1898.

Commanding Officer,

Post of CAMUY.

Sir:-

The Brigadier General Commanding the District relies upon you to take proper action in the matter of having guards at different places, (which practice should be avoided as far as possible, for various reasons), to prevent in every possible way any violation of law at your post or in your jurisdiction. You should arrest all offenders, forward the charges at once and send the necessary witnesses with the charges. Constant patrolling, in addition, will be necessary. Keep in touch with the Alcaldes and get them to indicate the lawless characters for necessary action. They often hesitate to do this, but if it is understood that it is their duty and that they will be protected it is thought they will assist the military.

Having guards in towns should be unnecessary, as the police should attend to this, and the men who commit themselves should be brought to trial.

The matter of money exchange, involving so many points, cannot be regulated now. Permission to exchange at the Custom House would deplete the treasury thereof of the money necessary to pay labor in the money of the Island. To grant this privilege of exchange to officers and soldiers and to debar other American citizens would cause trouble.

The United States properly claims that \$1.00 American is equal to \$2.00 P. R., but beyond that, until necessary legislation is had, nothing can be done. Treasury agents are now on the Island engaged in getting necessary information.

Whenever a citizen official is found inefficient, report will be made at once so that remedy may be had.

The success of the American system till civil rule replaces the military, which may not be for some time, depends upon the discretion, good judgment and prompt action of the respective commanders in their jurisdiction.

Very respectfully,

C. W. Fenton.

Assistant Adjutant General.

[Handwritten notes and signatures in the top right margin, including names like 'Fenton' and 'C. W. Fenton' and various illegible scribbles.]

