

Washington, D. C.
December 20th, 1921.

Honorable Jose Tous Soto,
Ponce, Porto Rico.

My dear friend:-

The Governor is leaving this afternoon for Kansas City and will be back the first part of January, and then will decide upon the date of his return to Porto Rico.

This morning I had a conversation with General McIntyre upon different subjects and naturally Reily came in for a long part of the talk. He told me that this morning Jones had been in to see him and wanted to find out under what conditions and arrangements the Governor was returning to Porto Rico, as he had been made to believe that as a compromise for the Unionists withdrawing the charges the Governor would not be allowed to return. The General answered that he did not know of any such arrangement at all; that he had spoken frankly to both Barcelo and Davila, as old friends, and had counseled them to withdraw their charges inasmuch as there was nothing in them and would only be a source of embarrassment to the Administration and would certainly rebound against the Unionists' party. Barcelo had seen the light and had written a letter to the Secretary of War, withdrawing the charges against Governor Reily. That he, the General, had made no agreement whatever and he knew that the Secretary of War had not done so himself, much less the President. Jones said that he would stick to his other charges and would press them.

The General also told me that if he was the President and Reily had been even his brother, he would have sent the charges to the Attorney General for investigation and that I should advise Reily to get up affidavits and hand them to the President, so that the latter would have the whole story before him and be placed in such a position as to be able to show, some time in the future when the matter should come up, either in Congress or through the newspapers, that all the charges had been answered to his satisfaction. It is useless to say that as soon as I saw Reily this morning, I told him of this conversation and he telephoned the General, who promised him to place in his hands this afternoon a copy of all the charges presented by Jones, to which he will answer, getting up the necessary affidavits in Kansas City.

The General told me also that he saw Secretary Weeks last evening at some reception and he was told that Reily had been to see him yesterday morning and the Secretary had gone over the whole situation in Porto Rico with him. Reily at last told the Secretary that he favored Judge Toro for the appointment as Chief Justice, and the Secretary told McIntyre that he would insist, with the President, that Toro be appointed. The General has also seen a letter to the President from Judge Towner, making a similar

recommendation.

McIntyre told me he was going to support Reily, but that he was going to advise him to be very careful in his actions in Porto Rico, particularly in his appointments. He referred to the appointments of Lippett and Wilson and said that, in his opinion, the Governor should have appointed one Continental and not two, and that perhaps would have caused less friction with the other crowd.

As a whole, the conversation with the General was very satisfactory, and I have drawn the conclusion that both Weeks and McIntyre are now strong for Reily, after knowing the attitude of the President.

I want to set forth a few things that happened at the conference with the President, which I did not have time enough in my last letter to write you about. For instance, the President said that a certain lady here in Washington had showed him a letter which she had received from a lady friend in Porto Rico, writing her about different subjects; in the letter there was a paragraph referring to the campaign against Reily, and the writer spoke in the highest terms in favor of Reily and what he had been doing in Porto Rico and branded the opposition to him as purely political, coming from those seeking independence. She concluded her remarks by saying that Reily was doing much good for the people as a whole and for the American sentiment, particularly in the matter of public education, as now there would be a certainty that the children in the schools would be made to respect "Old Glory".

The President said that that paragraph in the letter had given him more satisfaction and meant more to him in favor of Reily than anything that the latter and his friends might tell him, because it came so unexpectedly and in a way that the writer of the letter never dreamt that he, the President, would ever read said paragraph.

Another thing that came up during the conversation and which was very significant was when Reily in explaining the fight in Porto Rico spoke about Barcelo. The President said "don't mention Barcelo's name, I don't want to hear it." And in another instance he asked "What is the other fellow on the Hill doing now?" (Meaning Davila). "Is he still fighting you?"

All these small incidents go to show how deep-rooted is the affection of the President for Reily, and what may be expected by Barcelo and his crowd in their fight against Reily.

I expect to be in New York to spend Christmas and will continue this letter over there and let you know any developments.