

January 20, 1909.

Hon. Henry A. Cooper.

House of Representatives.

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Cooper:-

After glancing over the Congressional Record of the 5th instant and reading your remarks regarding your bill on the citizen question, I cannot help addressing you these lines to thank you for the interest you have taken in our cause. With your noble attitude you are making good a statement of mine during the last political campaign, to the effect that "the citizen question for the Porto Ricans would never be a dead issue as long as Henry Allen Cooper was in Congress to keep it alive."

I know that I am voicing the sentiment of hundreds of thousands of Porto Ricans when I say that citizenship is the paramount political question among our people today, and that the conferring of same by Congress would surely do away forever with the idle and irresponsible talk of a hand-ful of malcontents who make capital out of the present situation. For this reason, and while other Congressmen are naturally busy attending to their particular constituents, it is gratifying to see that you give us part of your valuable time and influence and try to keep before Congress the cause of justice of a million inhabitants, who, otherwise, would have no opportunity of making their wishes known before the only body who can grant same.

I want to make it clear that I mean no disrespect to our Commissioner, Mr. Larrinaga, in this matter, but as he belongs to and was elected by a political party who took issue with the Republicans in the last campaign, as between independence and citizenship, and, unfortunately for Porto Rico, his party won out on the first proposition, I suppose naturally, that it would seem inconsistent to urge citizenship in Washington when you have fought it in Porto Rico as a campaign issue.

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On the other hand, I would like to see him get up and help you in the citizen question, as his inconsistency would be beneficial to Porto Rico.

Would it be possible to get a copy of the Military Orders ordered by Congress to be printed, as the request of Mr. Parsons? I would be thankful to you if I can get a copy.

With best regards and wishes for success in all your undertakings I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

(sgd) R. H. Todd