

FRANK H. HITCHCOCK
120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

April 25, 1920.

PERSONAL.

Hon. Roberto H. Todd,
San Juan,
Porto Rico.

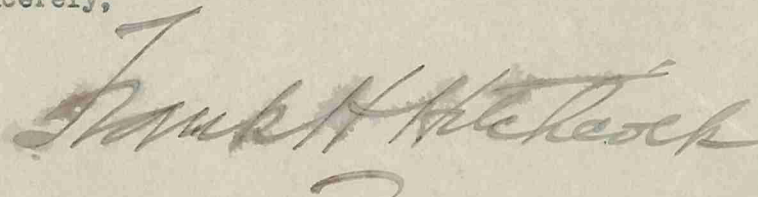
Dear Mr. Committeeman:

This is the first opportunity I have had to make reply to your letter of the 24th ultimo, which arrived here while I was out in Chicago.

I think that what you hope to have incorporated in the party platform as regards Porto Rico is entirely reasonable. Of course the Convention Committee and not the present informal "Committee on Policies and Platform" will actually decide such questions and so the real fight will come when the convention convenes. I assume you will reach here some little time in advance of the convention and certainly in season to participate in the meetings of the National Committee, which will begin May 26th. It seems pretty certain now that General Wood will have the largest following in the convention and so I shall be in a favorable position to help you. I am heartily in accord with your plan and will do what I can to be of service.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,



FHH-WLP

Copy

March 24th, 1920.

Hon. Frank H. Hitchcock,
120 Broadway,
New York City.

My dear friend:-

I am enclosing herewith copy of a letter that I have written to Mr. John M. Switzer, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Insular Possessions in the Committee on Policies and Platform, accompanying certain data on Porto Rico that I compiled, at his suggestion, for the use of the Sub-Committee (Copy of which data I will send you by next mail).

Pursuant to our conversation in December 1919, when you said you would help me to get some substancial promise for Porto Rico in the Platform, I now have to request that you let me know if you believe that with the proposed plank we are asking too much.

I hope that you will agree with me that, after twenty-two years under the Flag, Porto Rico is not asking too much in her request for incorporation. A continued denial of this just aspiration and proof of loyalty, would only serve to help in swelling the ranks of those advocating independence. And the logic of the problem is obvious: you either want us as equals, participating in your affairs or you let us entirely to our own faith as Cuba or Santo Domingo. I am pleading the other fellow's side of the case.

Let me have the benefit of your ideas about this most important question for Porto Rico, as our two delegates will go instructed to plead for some substancial expression in the platform.

I am agreeable interested to read that you had undertaken to manage Gen. Wood's campaign, and suppose this will keep you busy most of the time. Our Convention will meet on April 4th to select the two delegates, and am reasonable sure that they will be uninstructed. I have already been re-elected as National Committeeman.

Let me know where I can find you in case I go to New York in the near future. Of course, I will be going up some time in May to be on hand at the meeting of the National Committee a week before the Convention meets.

Believe me to remain,

Your friend,

(Pgs) R.H. Fiddell

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS OF THE REPUBLICAN
NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Chicago, June 8-1920.

Memorandum in support of Plank for the incorporation of
the Territory of Porto Rico:

1.- By virtue of the Organic Act of Porto Rico, Section 5th, approved by Congress on March 2, 1917, (Jones Act):

"All citizens of Porto Rico, as defined by section seven of the Act of April Twelfth, nineteen hundred, temporarily to provide revenues and a civil government for Porto Rico and for other purposes' and all natives of Porto Rico who were temporarily absent from that island on April eleventh, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, and have since returned and are permanently residing in that island, and are not citizens of any foreign country, are hereby declared, and shall be deemed and held to be, citizens of the United States".

2.- Section 7 of the Act of April 12, 1900 (Foraker Act) provided as follows:-

"Section 7: That all inhabitants continuing to reside therein who were Spanish subjects on the eleventh day of April, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, and then resided in Porto Rico, and their children born subsequent thereto, shall be deemed and held to be citizens of Porto Rico, and as such entitled to the protection of the United States, except such as shall have elected to preserve their allegiance to the Crown of Spain on or before the eleventh day of April, nineteen hundred, in accordance with the provisions of the treaty of peace between the United States and Spain entered into on the eleventh day of April, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine; and they, together with such citizens of the United States as may reside in Porto Rico, shall constitute a body politic under the name of The People of Porto Rico, with governmental powers as hereinafter conferred, and with power to sue and be sued as such."-

3.- Therefore, Porto Rico is an American Community under the

jurisdiction of the United States.-

4.- Previous to the organic Act of March 2, 1917, above quoted, the Supreme Court of the United States declared that Porto Rico was an organized but unincorporated Territory. That "incorporation" ~~was~~ ^{did} not follow by operation of the treaty of Paris, and that a positive enactment on the part of Congress was necessary in order to operate the incorporation of the Territory.

5.- The clear intent of the Congress in granting collective citizenship to the citizens of Porto Rico was to incorporate the Territory; but the Supreme Court of the United States, reversing the Supreme Court of Porto Rico and the United States District Court for Porto Rico, held that the granting of citizenship was not sufficient for the incorporation. What in order to incorporate the Island, Congress must do it in express terms.

6.- The consequence of that decision is that ^{the} inhabitants of Porto Rico and their children subsequently born in the Island are citizens of the United States, subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, the soil is a possession of the United States, but the political community formed by citizens of the United States on American soil is not incorporated into the United States. This situation from a political standpoint, is disturbing and chaotic.-

7.- The Porto Rican Republican Party became affiliated with the National Republican Party ^{in 1904} for the purpose of securing American citizenship and ~~statehood~~ ^{incorporation} for Porto Rico. Now that the former aspiration has cristalized by the action of a Democratic Congress, we demand from our Party the recognition of the natural consequence of American citizenship, that is to say: the plodge to incorporate, by Act of Congress, the Political Community composed of citizens of the United States, created in the Island by said Act of Congress of March 2, 1917.

8.- If the will of the Nation is that the Island should remain severed from the United States, we demand from our national statesman, that with all candor and frankness they make clear

their position in the premises in order to conform our aspirations and conduct to our political future, and to develop and educate the coming generations with a view to our final status.

9.- We Porto Rican Republicans firmly maintain that our island and people should for ever remain a part and parcel of the United States, for the mutual convenience of both peoples; and we shall never submit to a Colonial Condition or regard. The history of the birth of the Union should not ^{be} overlooked and you should not impose upon us the ominous ties you severed from Great Britain with the sword.

10.- The independence propaganda in the Island is the outgrowth of the delay and hesitation of the Congress in granting American citizenship to the Porto Ricans, and of the undetermined status of the Island up to this time maintained. The Act of Congress incorporating the Island would kill the independentists propoganda, in the same manner that the granting of collective citizenship stopped the same for a time, that is to say, until the decision of the Supreme Court above referred to *was made*

11.- Porto Rico is a self supporting Community. Real and personal property existing in the island) was assessed, for ~~the~~ purposes of taxation, in the sum of \$254,000,000, for the year 1918-19. This is \$154,000,000 more than the first assesstment since the American occupation, made in 1900. The total revenues of the island for the fiscal year 1919-20 are laid at the sum of \$7,000,000 of which \$1,030,000 came from raw and manufactured tobacco shipped to the Continent and \$370,000 from Customs duties. The remainder of these revenues is obtained from property, inheritance and income taxes, government telegraph and telephone lines, excise taxes and micelaneous receipts. The expenses of the Insular Government for the same period are laid at the sum of \$6,998,000, including herein over \$2,700,000 appropriated for educational purposes, for which public service we receive federal aid in the sum of \$50,000 yearly only under the provision of the

Nelson-Mo²²hill fund Act. Outside of this item and the customs duties and excise taxes aforementioned, we are receiving no federal financial assistance in running our local government.

Our import and export trade with Continental United States exceeded \$1,300,000,000 during the twenty year period from 1899 to 1919, \$753,000,000 being the exports and the remainder the imports from the mainland. The same items for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919, were as follows:

Exports \$71,015,351 and imports \$57,898,085.

12.- We do not fear the economic consequences of the incorporation. It is true that we receive now the proceeds of the customs duties, and we have our own excise and income tax for the benefit of our treasury and that incorporation will deprive us of these or of most of these sources of revenue; but on the other hand, all the expenses of the Government of the Territory of Porto Rico, would be borne by the Federal Treasury, and we are sure Congress would give us all the necessary help for public education, sanitation and public improvements, as is customary in the Territories. We suggest the granting to Porto Rico, in lieu of an annual appropriation for meeting the expenses of the Territorial Government, of an appropriation of \$100,000,000 to be paid by the Federal Treasury to the Treasury of the Island in annual installments of \$5,000,000 cash during 20 years for educational, sanitary and public improvements.

13.- Should our great Party not fulfil now, after twenty two years of American sovereignty in the Island, the promises made in 1898 by the Commander in Chief of the army of occupation General Nelson A. Miles, in behalf of the nation and under a republican administration, of granting to Porto-Rico the American republican institutions, the persistent endeavors of the Local Republican Party in hastening the day of our ^{incorporation} ~~entry into the~~ ~~Union of States~~, would thereby be greatly hindered and retarded, if not rendered fruitless. To the accomplishment of this end, we have devoted ourselves ever since the foundation of our Party on July 4th. 1899, maintaining a bitter struggle in this territory

against the foes of Americanism and of American institutions, who, while laboring for secession and absolute independence of the Territory from the Union, have enjoyed the protection of american governors and are still permitted to control the territorial government as a reward for their disloyalty to the citizenship of America which they voluntarily accepted only two years ago.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. Todd

Member Committee on Resolutions
from Porto Rico

The proposed Plan follows: