

July 17, 1912.

Mr. Sosthenes Behm.

New York City.

My dear Sosthenes:-

I do not know if this letter will reach you, as both your brother and myself are expecting every minute to hear that you have sailed on your return home. In any event, I thought I would drop you a few lines in order to give you the latest news.

The plague situation has improved a good deal. Since my last letter very few new cases have been reported and only two or three deaths. In fact, the general health of San Juan is exceedingly good. There has been a general cleaning up and repair in all houses, in the city proper, Marina, Pta. de Tierra and Santurce, and you would have been surprised to see the filth and rubbish which was taken out of stores and dwellings. It is a shame that after a year of the Sanitation being in the hands of the Insular Government that such a condition should exist.

There has been a fatal case in Dorado, and no one knows how it got there.

If you receive The Times, you may read and believe everything written therein about the plague, as it is taken from official data given out by Lippitt. You will notice that although the average death rate is high, the number of cases is very small.

The financial situation is also changing for the better, as I understand. It seems that the mere offer from the Governor to bring down the money which we still have in the States, has been sufficient to help clear the situation, and money seems to be easier.

Politically we are waiting for developments. Last Sunday we had a small gathering at Fajardo, which was a fiasco. Viscarrondo, the Chairman of our Party, called a meeting of the Territorial Committee to discuss matters

Sosthenes. 2.-July 17/912.

before meeting at Aguadilla. He invited Rossey, Sanchez Morales, Barbosa, Falcon and myself. We had to go by via Humacao, as the rivers via Carolina are unpassable, and when we arrived, (Barbosa, Falcon and myself) we found that only Becerril and Godinez had responded to the call. After luncheon we went to Dr. Veve's house and there discussed all matters which may arise at Aguadilla. I gave them a little talk of what we had accomplished at Chicago and Washington and them seemed pleased with the outlook.

I want to say to you that Dr. Veve tried to shift the load of the Party on your shoulders, saying that he was a fracasado and that we needed a new man, with lots of jabon to your good qualities &c, and I took the liberty of saying that I was opposed to it because I was your friend and that I would counsel you not to take it under any consideration and that I knew that you would not take it, therefore it was useless to lose time discussing it. Barbosa, here in San Juan, during our first talk, had tried to fool me into the proposition that I should be made ~~Chairman~~ of the party, but I soon waved him aside and made him understand that I had enough of such rubbish.

Am not going to bother you with a long letter about local chismes; be it sufficient to say to you that I am already tired with the situation as I have found it in this office. The Council and myself are still at logger heads and things have reached such a stage in the Hospital that I have requested Carballeira to send me his resignation as I am unable to sustain him against so many influences working against him. He has lots of good qualities but he lacks diplomacy and good manners in dealing with the members of the Council, who, after all, are his superiors. He has taken it good natured, and he will still remain in the service as I will make some combination and appoint him in Toro's place, the latter taking Velez' place.

My friend: I have changed my mind, and I think I will ask you to write or see Hilles for me and ~~occupy~~ the postoffice at San Juan for me, ~~either~~ now or in December when the place becomes vacant, if that is the case and I am not sure that it is. It has to be done without loss of time, as

Southness, 3, July 17/912.

Lee Nixon told me a few days ago that he was going to write to Harry D. New, of Indiana, to get the position for him, as he knew that Landis was in bad shape and would not likely continue. You know very well that after what Harry New has done for Taft, if he should ask for that job he will surely get it, and that is why I want you to act quick. If Colton is still up there, please communicate with him about this, although I am writing him also. The reason for writing you about this is that I cannot continue in this office. Apart from the natural pressure of business which it entails, the fights with the Council are of daily occurrence, and they dont seem to be willing to give up. Manolo del Valle, whom I thought was my friend, was one of my worse enemies, and allied himself with Ginorio. Thanks to goodness that he is out, and I have expressed the opinion that I prefer men like Fald in the Council than men with diplomas who are constantly looking for trouble and raising cane. I have been reduced to two friends in the Council, and they are weaklings: Geigel and Echevarria.

During the two months I have been absent, they have done everything possible to molest and bother me, and have voted a presupuesto which is going to be a fracaso in many respects.

For all these reasons I have decided to leave this office and let someone else try his hand. But I want to say to you that Before I leave I am going to have Ginorio and others in the Council hear from me.

For your information I will say that Landis just came back from his trip to Indiana, and according to his own story to friends here, was in the midst of the fight when the primaries took place, as he was constantly with his brother.

I see very little of your brother, as he is busy and I am busy. I saw him yesterday, though, in the Federal Court, and he is well and looking fine.

Regards and lots of them to Mdna. Lucchetti and Madlaine, hoping that they are well and enjoying themselves; and un fuerte abrazo para Ud. de su affmo. amigo y compatriota,