

Ponce, P. R. March 22, 1921.

Hon. Horace M. Towner,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Judge Towner:-

Yours letters to Messrs. Barceló and Coll were read by them in their respective houses on the 21th of March, with your request to make your letter a part of the record. They asked that their replies be also entered in the record approved. The Republican minority in the Senate and House asked for a division of the question; that is to say, the insertion of your letter in the journal, separate from the insertion of the reply of the Presiding officer. That was denied, and the minority was compelled to vote against the insertion in the record of your letter as it could not indorse the answers of Messrs. Barceló and Coll, if they deserve that name. We think it well to explain our position in the matter, thus avoiding any misunderstanding that might arise because of our refusal to vote in favor of the motion referred to.

Mr. Barceló confined himself to his carefully written reply, but Mr. Coll, after reading his answer, indulged in the same old independence song, with severe criticism, if not denunciation of yourself and others. You will receive those statements, besides an editorial in "The Demo-

cracia", Mr. Barceló's paper, the evident purpose of which is to quote the statements in your letter as being inconsistent with your previously published utterances, and in some way to make you responsible for the Unionists' dreams. As you will notice, Messrs. Barceló and Coll did not reply at all, but the answer was left to the "Junta Central". I advise you that you will not succeed in obtaining a clear statement from our Unionist friends. They will dodge any direct reply to your suggestions.

We, (the Portorrican Republicans) feel that your letter is the first step in the right direction. From 1904 to this hour almost every act and word from the officials in charge of our business in Washington and here have been the laying of the foundation for the anti-American sentiment in the Island. Our people have been led to believe that the government at Washington and the political leaders, both, Republicans and Democrats, favor either the independence scheme or a certain kind of autonomous rule, un-American in ideal, language and tradition. To defend and foster American ideals from 1904 to 1921 has been my dear Judge, for the Republicans of Porto Rico, a task that probably no Continental American could ever realize. Our people cannot understand how it is that the Unionist party is in power, as its aims and policies are in conflict with the wishes and purposes of the Nation. That was, of course, impossible under the Spanish rule, and not only that, the

opponents of Spanish rule were treated as public enemies and traitors, without any overt act, or the uttering of a single word conveying the idea of disloyalty to the flag and to the Nation. No doubt the people at large are well aware that the American rule is more liberal than the Spanish, and more latitude of expression is left for criticism; but when the candidates to the Senate and House hoisted the so called Portorrican flag from their political platforms, and openly advocated independence as their only campaign issue; when the Courts openly protect the independentists and use the law as a club against the Republicans; when the public officers, from the heads of department to the janitors wear the little flag in their coats, then the laborer and peasants naturally accept the truth of the battle cry of the Unionist Party: "Nosotros somos poder". (The government belongs to us) and being ignorant and weak, they follow the secession banner. It appeals to their pride, so they follow the officers bearing the flag of disloyalty, hoping thus to be in favor with the government. In other words, the Unionist Party is not the majority party because the independence propaganda appeals to the people, but because the independentists are the government; or rather, because the Governor belongs to them. If you are willing to change that state of affairs you will see that the independence iceberg will speedily melt under the warm sun of true Ameri-

canism.

The mistake of the Republican administration under President Taft in dealing with the Unionist was to stop their crying by giving them good jobs to swallow. It was a mistake because the Unionists learned very soon how to swallow and cry at the same time.

Your letter is a warning to the people of Porto Rico and may be considered an ultimatum to the Unionist Party. It is in accord with your views expressed before the Committee on Insular Affairs during the hearing on the Jones Bill; but as I have said before, the Unionists claim that you have misled them, or rather that you induced them to believe in the impossibility of statehood, and the feasibility of independence; or at least of peculiar status, similar to that of Canada or Australia, in which the United States sovereignty would be nominal, or limited to international affairs, the Nation holding the Island for strategic purposes only. I have several times called the attention of our people through the press and from the platform, to your statement on page 60 of the hearing on H. R. No. 1318 of Feb. 26 and 28 and March 2, 1914 in favor of statehood for Porto Rico; but our good Unionist friends abide by your utterance in your address on the floor of the House when you said you hoped the next step for Porto Rico would be the enactment of her own constitution.

I am sorry to take so much of your time but I wish to make some suggestions that I think important in the present situation.

1. In order to put an end to the secession agitation, a declaration is necessary from the Congress that Porto Rico is an incorporated territory of the United States and is and will be forever an integrant part of the Union.

2. To place the affairs of Porto Rico under the supervision of the Interior Department, especially now - that our good friend, Senator Fall, would exercise a salutary influence in the political affairs of the Island and will aid us in solving the problems of developing our natural resources (water falls, mines, fisheries, forestry, survey of the Island, advance of the agriculture, etc).

3. The public Service Commission is a failure. It is too large a body and the members of the same are too busy to devote sufficient time to the important business entrusted to them. The elective members do nothing. The commission is in the hands of the secretary. I suggest a commission composed of a Public Service Commissioner with an annual salary of \$5,000.00 and two associated members (no more than two belonging to the same party) appointed by the Governor with the advise and consent of the Senate; with a per diem compensation; or with the commissioner of

the Interior and the Attorney General.

You will remember when Messrs. Poventud, Bazán and myself appeared before the Committee of Insular Affairs, we denounced the political game of the Unionist Party and stated that they were poisoning the minds of the peasants and the rising generation. Probably at that time you supposed our statements were dictated by political reasons. You will see now that we were right, and that Messrs. Barceló and Cordova Davila were deceiving you. I want to warn you now that they will try again to play the same old game. You will have observed that Mr. Cordova's words on the floor of the House explaining the enigmatic cablegrams had not been endorsed by either the Insular Senate or the House. On the contrary, Messrs. Barceló and Coll's statements are entirely at variance with that of Mr. Cordova's, if you had not requested them to insert your letter in the record, thus forcing in this way a reply, you would have been at this time induce by Mr. Córdoba to believe that his statements in Congress had the sanction of the Unionist Party, when in reality they have been repudiated by the leaders.

Yours very truly,

J. Fausse