

His Excellency
Ignacy Moscicki
President of Poland
Warsaw

Sir: addressed to you and

A letter of the Governor of Puerto Rico, published
in the press ~~that~~ informing that he ~~had~~ ^{was}
sending you the "Territorial Flag of Puerto
Rico", induced me to inquire at the
office of the Executive Secretary what flag
had been sent to you as such an official
flag, and the answer was that the flag
sent was a private flag called the
Governor's flag which he uses on his
automobile when he rides in same.
Allow me to state, Mr President, that

Puerto Rico has no Territorial Flag, &
the ^{only} official flag is the Honorary
Flag, known as the Stars and Stripes,
Puerto Rico being only a possession
of the U.S. of America.

The only other flag known and re-
cognized by the Puerto Ricans is one
which was adopted on December 22,
1895, when the island belonged to Spain,
by a Convention of Puerto Ricans held
in New York who were seeking independ-
ence.

8/6

~~A. S. Thompson's Brown No. 62. J. J. Brown & Co. New York~~

July 26th 1939.

Hon. William H. Hunt,
Balfour Bldg.
San Francisco, Cal.

My dear Governor:

Of course you know that on the 1st of September next, we are going to have a new governor, making the 13th since civil government in 1900. After 39 years of Civil government Washington still believes that there is no resident in the island, either native American or Continental American, suitable for the job.

Let me tell you a little story concerning the last light of La Fortaleza. On June 21/39 the local daily newspaper El Mundo published a letter written by Governor Winship to the President of Poland accompanying the "Territorial flag of Puerto Rico", on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Poland's independence. The letter stated that the flag was sent by the people of Puerto Rico, with a small p, and that the governor was told that the flag was to be exhibited in the new National Museum of Varsovia, together with the flags of the other states and territories of the American Union.

I was surprised when I read this letter and could hardly control myself. I wrote a letter to the Executive Secretary inquiring about the flag sent to Poland and I have his answer. The flag sent was a so-called governor's flag made up in white silk and the seal of Puerto Rico embroidered in the center, and it has been used by governors lately on the right hand front mud-guard of automobile No. 1- used by the governor. This governor's flag has no legal standing for the Legislature has not authorized it.

I am planning to write a letter to the President of Poland informing him that Puerto Rico has no Territorial flag, that our only official flag is that of the United States, and that the only other flag known to Puerto Ricans is the one adopted in 1895 by those who were in New York trying to fight Spain.

If I decide to write such a letter I will have it published.

A few days ago I met David Noble (I wonder if you remember him) on the street and he told me the following story. Let me say in passing that ever since Noble was a young man, and I believe he is now about 70, he has been known as unreliable in his stories. No one who knows David believes his stories.

Noble Told me that when he was at the New York Fair last month and

was contemplating the Puerto Rico exhibition, you happened to be doing the same thing, he told you who he were and you told him you were ex-governor Hunt, he invited you to luncheon, and so on. But what impressed me more than anything else that Noble said was that you told him that after the years gone by since you were Governor of Puerto Rico, you had come to regret certain mistakes which you had committed. That you told him that you had written about these mistakes to Mrs. Towner, the widow of exgovernor Horace Towner, and to Walter Mac K Jones, of Washington, D.C.

Although I am always on my guard whenever Noble tells me anything that seems important, for I never believe his stories, I asked him if you had mentioned to him what those mistakes were, if they had been in your manner of handling public matters, or of your dealing with individuals. Noble was unable to tell me and I thought I noticed certain nervousness in his manners when I told him that I would ask you about the matter the first time I wrote you.

Yesterday, July 25th, we celebrated the 41th anniversary of the landing of the first American soldiers at Guanica. I was the author of the bill making it a holiday and I never expected to see this 41st. anniversary. Tomorrow we will celebrate, the day being also a holiday- the 82 nd. anniversary of Dr. Barbosa's birthday. This memory is honored today by every Puerto Rican, and you know he was worthy of such a distinction.

Believe me as ever

faithfully,

(Sgd) R. H. Todd

T. T. C. GREGORY, 1901-1933
WILLIAM H. HUNT
BRADFORD M. MELVIN
WALLACE SHEEHAN
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"GREGMOT"

August 29, 1939

Mr. Roberto H. Todd
P. O. Box 1239
San Juan, Puerto Rico

My dear Todd:

Your letter about the flag of the Governor having been sent to Poland as the flag of the Island is interesting and yet I take it that if a request had been made for a governor's flag, no criticism could be made of the action that seems to have been taken. Nearly every governor has a flag marking his authority, although, of course, the flag of the United States is really the flag of the Island as distinguished from an insular flag.

What David Noble told you is amusing. I have not seen or heard of Noble for thirty-five years, nor have I been to the World's Fair in New York, and his statements of his conversation had with me in New York or anywhere else are fantastic.

I am very glad to hear that Dr. Barbosa's birthday is so generally recognized by the people of the Island. No one knows better than I his patriotic services from the beginning of American government there and of his consistent loyalty and his great ability in aiding us to overcome many difficulties which presented themselves in those times.

I am always glad to hear from you. With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

William H. Hunt

WHH MBF