

Washington, D. C., May 19/1927.

Subsecretary of War McNider, Gen. McIntyre, Perez Marchand, de Ponce y Mayor Todd, of San Juan, accompanied the Legislative Commission to see the President at eleven A.M. to-day and after the presentation of the Resolution of the Legislature by Tous Soto, Senator Barcelo made a brief statement and then Mr. Guerra read the Memorial accompanying the Resolution. The President kept quiet listening and smoking his cigar and, at the end, he stated as follows:

"I am very glad of this opportunity to meet you, gentlemen of the Committee. I want to state that I do not know of anyone who has been working against Governor Towner and this is the first time that my attention has been called to this matter. It is interesting to see this wonderful endorsement which is made of Governor Towner's administration by you gentlemen who represent the different political parties in the Island. Something has been said about his health, and although he is not as robust as I would desire, I am glad to hear that he is able to administer the affairs of the Island to your satisfaction.

"I know that there was some financial troubles, but I see that you are doing away with it. I am an advocate of Governmental economy, and I want to say that although your public works program is highly commendable, some times it is necessary to forgo certain cherished improvements in order to obtain economy. When a government asks the taxpayer for his money, it is our duty to be very careful how we spend that money.

"There has been no intention on my part to make any change for the present. It is true that certain men who are around Governor Towner are not the persons I should like to have. I have followed closely the wonderful progress you are making in the schools and other improvements but I wish you would give special attention to the study of the English language so that the people down there may be able to make themselves understood with the people up here and may be able to read our newspapers and be acquainted with the march of our progress. I am an admirer of the Spanish language and this language should be kept up as it is so necessary for your people."

The President then asked Guerra where did he hear that there was any intention of removing Gov. Towner. Guerra replied that it was the common talk in the Island, and that the reason given was the lack of health of Gov. Towner. The President reiterated his first remark. The President then said that someone had suggested that a picture be taken with the Commission, and that if no other persons wanted to say anything more we better move out on the lawn and have the picture taken. And that was all. The picture was taken.