

BEHN BROTHERS  
SAN JUAN PORTO RICO  
CABLE ADDRESS "BEHNBROS"

December 22, 1909.

Mr. R. H. Todd,  
San Juan, P. R.

Dear Sir:-

In view of the repeated expressions of the Governor as to the desirability of co-operation on the part of all business interests in Porto Rico, for the advancement and protection of the commerce and industry of the Island, and of the urgent necessity, to that end, of organizing an association, to include within its membership the principal property owners, as well as the commercial and professional elements of the country, we have taken the initiative in forming such an association, and we beg to advise you that we have included your name among the members of the Committee on Organization, with the desire that you shall honor us with your presence at a meeting of said Committee, to be held on the 29th instant, at the offices of "The San Juan Stock and Produce Exchange," at 2 o'clock p. m.

This association will devote itself exclusively to those things which are for the commercial up-building of the country. Neither nationality, religion nor political opinion will have any bearing upon the admission of members, and the discussion of political questions, at its meetings, will not be permitted.

It is the intention that the association shall be given a name to indicate its purposes, such as, for instance, "THE GREATER PORTO RICO ASSOCIATION;" that it shall assemble in convention, for the interchange of ideas, probably not more frequently than once in each year, at which time it can appoint its standing committees for work along the lines then indicated, during the succeeding year; that the association will maintain permanent offices which will furnish a means of contact between the government and

the association.

In this way the commercial, industrial and agricultural interests will have a direct and forceful means of bringing to the attention of the Government of the United States, as well as the local government, matters of economical, commercial and financial interest to the Island at large, such as, for instance, our interests in the commercial treaties of the United States, its conclusions with respect to the coffee problem, shipping facilities by rail and steam vessels, and the development of Porto Rico as a winter resort, with a view to attracting to our Island the American tourists, who are now patronizing the Bermudas, Jamaica and Cuba.

The Governor assures us that the representations of such an association will be of great assistance to him in developing a business administration, that it will furnish a means of direct contact between the business community and the government, which is much needed, and that it will have the support of the government, for the purposes indicated, to the fullest extent it would be possible and proper for a government to go in that direction.

The organization of this new association will not be prejudicial, in any manner, to other commercial associations now in existence, because its sphere of action will be broader, bringing to the assistance of particular interests needing it, the support of all other interests which in their turn may later require reciprocal support. It will treat in a general manner, all economical, commercial and financial interests that affect the people as a whole, and its power will rest in the fact that it does possess the influence of every business interest in the Island.

During the week in which this meeting will be held, the Secretary

of War and the Chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department will be visiting the Island, and it is proposed to make them and the Governor of Porto Rico guests of the association at dinner on Wednesday evening, the 29th instant, at 8 o'clock, at the Restaurant Filippi. The cost per cover for those attending the dinner will be five dollars.

We will thank you to advise us, upon receipt of this, as to whether or not you will be able to attend the meeting and dinner of the Committee on Organization, to be held as above, and if you are unable to do so, we would appreciate your advising us of your willingness to have your name used as one of said Committee upon the general invitations to be sent out in the formation of the association.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert L. Dwyer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed phrase "Yours very truly,".