

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PORTO RICO
INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE
SAN JUAN.

August 13th, 1900.

To the

ADJUTANT GENERAL,

Department of Porto Rico.

S i r :

On the 1st of August, I was engaged in inspecting property pertaining to Companies C & D of the Porto Rican Regiment, U.S.Vols., at that time stationed at San Juan. At 5 o'clock, I stopped for the day, and started for my office. While coming down San Cristo Street, towards Headquarters, I observed, in crossing San Sebastian Street, that a short distance from the corner was a crowd of Porto Ricans, many of them with clubs, and having the appearance of men bent upon causing trouble. In looking up the street a little farther, I observed five or six Porto Ricans approaching. Realizing instantly that they were laborers from the Quartermaster's workshop in Casa Blanca, and knowing that their lives had been threatened by the strikers, of which Santiago Yglesias was the leader, I stopped to observe what would take place. In a few minutes, the workmen had approached the crowd, and they were immediately set upon, and not only menaced by threats, but by clubs. Realizing that they were Government employes, and in need of immediate protection, or they might be seriously injured or killed, I ran to the crowd and arrested two of the

ringleaders, named Bonifacio Hiala and Enrique Delvre, and took them to Police Headquarters. My action in my opinion, preserved the lives of at least one or more of these workmen, for the crowd seemed bent bent on doing them bodily injury.

About the time I arrived with the prisoners at Police Headquarters, the policemen brought in another man, who was in possession of a club. While I was explaining the situation, and my action in arresting these vicious and law breaking men, to the corporal of the police, who was in charge of Police Headquarters, Santiago Yglesias, who had evidently been inspiring this attack upon the workmen, and was near, if not a member of the attacking party, interfered so much that I insisted that the prisoners be taken from the hallway into the office so that I could explain the situation without further interference, and the Police arrive at a conclusion regarding the situation. Santiago Yglesias, notwithstanding repeated warnings, continued to make himself obnoxious, and forcing his way into the office, began to continue his interference until I was forced to eject him from the room. The Police afterwards put him out of the building.

It has been, and is now, the duty of every army officer in Porto Rico, to protect the lives of law abiding citizens from brutal attacks by the vicious and law breaking element, and I discharged my duty as it came to me.

After arresting the men, I turned them over to the Civil

authorities - the Municipal Police - for trial and punishment, and in writing, made the usual statement of such an affair to the proper civil authorities - where the case now rests.

I did not think it was necessary at first to place these facts before you, but I concluded upon reflection that it was best that there should appear a record, in order to silence, should the occasion require it, any unjust criticism as to the interference of the military with civil matters.

Very respectfully,



Lieut. Col., & Inspector General,
Dept. of Porto Rico.

L.R. 4469 D.P.R. 1900

San Juan, P.R., Aug. 13, 1900.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
DEPT. PUERTO RICO.
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Dept. of Porto Rico,
Inspector General.

Submits report on his ar-
rest of two supposed strikers
who were creating a disturbance.

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