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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PORTO RICO.  
SAN JUAN PORTO RICO.

SECRETARY OF FINANCE.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

San Juan Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 1898.

Hon. Major General Guy V. Henry Com-  
manding the Department of Pto. Rico.

Sir:

The Secretary of Finance, as well as the Council of Secretaries, in recent resolutions, have made evident their tendency towards all that may be favorable to tax payer. These resolutions have been carried out after the approval of the Major General with his orders directing their execution which have been published in the official Gazette; viz, suppression of "Royal duties," ditto that of the "Provincial Deputation," a corporation which overburdened tax payers, as also the abolition of "personal schedules"; and later on it is their decided purpose to adopt more radical decisions of the same nature as those applied for by the Council of Las Armas.

Notwithstanding, the Finance Department has unavoidable expenses to satisfy, and it would be criminal to abandon

the performance of this duty, which would be the consequence, should we at present leave out direct taxation, which comprises the so called territorial taxes, and those of industry and commerce, now the only source of incomes available, if previously we can not rely on other incomes <sup>to</sup> substitute them.

My judgment in view of the reasons herein expressed, is that the application of Las Animas Council be not taken in consideration, for this fiscal year.

Very respectfully yours.

Cayetano Call  
y Fortes