

THE TIMES

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO

March 16, 1921

My dear Roberto:-

I am sending you enclosed, some translated staff and you will know if you can use it to advantage. I think everybody is sending Towner clippings of one sort or another.

Your letter of the 8th inst. came today. It was a good letter, full of good things to read, but I infer that nothing is known yet that is of interest politically.

I hope that will not send General Edwards down here, as is freely rumored; God knows we have enough of the bureau in our politics, unless they want to announce, straight out, a colonial system, and a "Secretary of State for the Colonies."

Another thing, Todd: If, after the long years of faithful work and fighting in Porto Rico, the Republicans are not to be distinctly recognized, then there is no use trying to build up and maintain a government by the people.

Such a "government will have perished from the earth," as far as Porto Rico is concerned.

Love to Lee and yourself,

Sincerely,
Sweet

San Juan, P.R.
March-17-1921.

Dear Roberto:-

Yours of the 10th. inst. received and reference to General Edwards noted. Edwards is a fine man; there is no doubt about that, and if he comes, of course we shall all give him a loyal support. But I am afraid, Roberto, that he will lack the tact to take a position between wringing the necks of the malcontents, and trying to argue it with them. As you know, when one begins to argue with the Dons, he is lost. Upon the other hand, they should be given a peaceful death, notwithstanding they will roar, threaten, and predict the loss of all our prestige, sympathy and respect on the part of South America.

And Roberto, (in confidence) would any of the Churches continue in our politics ?

Love to Lee, and respects to Judge Towner, when you see him.

Your friend,

Willis Sweet

THE TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL \$50,000

PUBLISHERS OF "EL TIEMPO" - "THE TIMES"

TELEPHONES { 105
359

ADDRESS { SALVADOR BRAU 83
P. O. BOX 208

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO

Abril 6, 1921.

Personal.

Mr. Roberto H. Todd,
Congress Hall Hotel,
Room 318,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Roberto:-

Your letter of the 25th inst brought gratifying news. I was afraid the General would make a mess of it here. However, that seems to be of the past, so let it go.

Meantime, the plot thickens here. The \$3,000,000 railroad bill of Barcelo's was introduced in time, but no bill has been introduced for the purchase of the constructed line; but I am told that the present bill may be amended so as to authorize the Commissioner of the Interior to purchase or lease the other line, if found necessary to accomplish the object of the \$3,000,000 bill. That may be the scheme; or, if the Governor shall go on leave, then the scheme will be to have Benedicto call a special session to execute the plan.

Or, again, the project may be carried far enough only to show Washington that important industrial projects require the retention of Yager. Perhaps both plans are under consideration.

It is said that the Governor will take a leave upon some pretext, and that as the guest of Don Manuel González, his family (wife and daughter) will go to Europe. The daughter, anyhow, but the Mrs. not sure. Of course they do not go openly as the guest of Don Manuel; but with Mr. and Mrs. Maestre, all as the guests of the young man who married Don Manuel's ward.

Again, there are many things to be signed that Yager, complacent and dominated as he is, would dare, or perhaps dare to sign. (1) The Flag Resolution; the Tariff Resolution by Tizolito; the Santo Domingo Resolution, (if it should pass) and other bills and resolutions, financial and political, that are intended either as insolent nagging at the Congress, or unsound financially.

But I believe it is the railroad scheme that lies at the bottom of the leave, if it is taken, as Don Manuel stands to lose very heavily if something is not accomplished very quickly;

THE TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL \$50,000

PUBLISHERS OF "EL TIEMPO"—"THE TIMES"

TELEPHONES { 105
 { 359ADDRESS { SALVADOR BRAU 83
 { P. O. Box 208

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO

R. H. T.-2

and you know what his influence with the Governor is.

As to the next Governor: I do not know of any candidate being urged here, unless the Unionists and Shanton may be urging Col. Townshend. I can scarcely believe this possible of consideration at Washington, although "Uncle Joe" might urge it. Better have one of the Unionist leaders, and then the responsibility would be clearly fixed. A change from Yager to T. would be no change at all—merely a transfer.

What is the matter with Darling? Is he inclined to be warbly? That is what I am afraid of. Our next Governor should not be harsh, or noisy; but quiet, courteous and firm against the reactionists.

Darling knows something of conditions, is honorable, knows a little of the people that is important, and it seems to me is safer than a stranger.

Sincerely yours,

Willis Sweet

WS/MP

THE TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL \$50,000

PUBLISHERS OF "EL TIEMPO" - "THE TIMES"

TELEPHONES { 105
359

ADDRESS { SALVADOR BRAU 83
P. O. Box 208

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO

April 13, 1921.

Mr. Roberto H. Todd,
Congress Hall Hotel,
Room 318,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Roberto:-

The railroad bill \$3,000,000.00 passed the Senate by a solid Unionist vote for; Republicans against. I believe Don Santiago voted against it, also. There is nothing new as to the other matters of which I wrote you, but I believe all will come to pass. We would not know of the Governor going anyhow, until the day, or the day after, his departure.

I do not believe he will want to sign all the measures that he must sign, if he remains. The flag bill; the "free trade" resolution; the call for a special session, if necessary, for the purchase of the railroad, etc. And I know that Don Manuel expects to sell the road to the people of Porto Rico; and you know of his influence with the Governor,

I believe General Edwards is a good man, but fear his appointment as Governor would be a mistake. However, they do not seem to have decided on anything, and "our country, right or wrong".

Judge Hamilton is greatly depressed over the rumor of Odlin's selection. There is much "financial" sympathy for him here, but the "old timers" speak highly of Mr. Odlin.

You may look for a storm here any day. Of course you saw the account of the row between Tous Soto and Barceló. No blood yet; just hot words.

Love to Lee.

Yours,

Wissie Sweet

WS/MP

THE TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL \$50,000

PUBLISHERS OF "EL TIEMPO" — "THE TIMES"

TELEPHONES { 105
 { 359

ADDRESS { SALVADOR BRAU 83
 { P. O. Box 208

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO
Abril 27, 1921.

Personal &
Confidential.

Dear Roberto:

If there was any doubt before about General Darling, the flag business settles it. There are two difficulties that confront us in dealing with the situation at Washington. (1) They do not understand; and (2) Those who are determined to establish a colonial system, and the retention of Yager is a part of it.

I was a little impressed in favor of Darling by his declaration before a large crowd at a reception given by the Elks to the Massachusetts delegation, in favor of Statehood. But he seems to have fallen, or does not understand. It rather looks as if O'Riley is the man-or has he dropped the "O"?

There is no use, Roberto, in attempting to analyze the Towner bill on the meager cables sent. I did discuss it a little with the Doctor before he wrote you, giving briefly such points as occurred to me without seeing the bill.

I will tel you, Roberto, I think we would be justified in exposing the Yager grafts and acceptances. In view of what I hear from Washington, I now believe he will veto the bills objectionable to the folks up there; but I do not know. He is under such obligation to Don Manuel, and his exchanges with the Antis have become so well known, and are so emphatic, that he may take a chance on being able to explain and satisfy up there. Mc Intyre is, of course, with the Governor. It is possible that Mc Intyre does not know all things, such as the personal family "service", or at least, attachment to different pay-rolls. But I doubt if he gives a damn. With Yager serving as his rubber stamp, he will keep him as long as he can. I like McIntyre, although it has for a long time been evident that the General does not understand the situation here; and how could he, simply from sitting arround the Palace and listening to Yager's sing-song drive for a week once in ten years? Of course, he has other sources of information?

And that reminds me. I assume you are a good member of the church. Can you not help in securing the appointment of Father Hoff as Bishop? That would end the church in politics

THE TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL \$50,000

PUBLISHERS OF "EL TIEMPO" - "THE TIMES"

TELEPHONES { 105
 { 359ADDRESS { SALVADOR BRAU 83
 { P. O. Box 208

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO

R. H. T.-2.

down here. His father was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war, he is a good Republican, and right on the subject of keeping the church out of politics. As of course you know, heretofore, all applicants for office asked the Bishop to write Mc Intyre. Lee will no doubt remember a talk we had once in the post-office on the advisability and political principle involved in asking the Bishop to endorse him to McIntyre. Hoff does not want it. He knows the crowd.

I see Odlin has qualified. It is a good thing. But I do think it would be a good thing to keep Bennett in as long as Yager holds out. It is the only check we have left.

What do you think of exposing Yager's grafting? I do not like such business. But what are we to do? Let everything go to hell until Uncle Sam finally awakes, and finds he has lost ten or fifteen years-and may be much more.

Love to Lee.

Yours friend,



WS/MP