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My dear Judge:-

Your old stenographer Roberts gave me a treat yesterday when he allowed me to read the letter which you wrote him lately. I had been wondering where you had located yourself after retiring from the bench, for I would have liked to correspond with you long ago.

I will always remember the last time we met. It was in Washington. I was crossing Capitol Park when I noticed a gentleman passing by who resembled you very much, and I hailed you "Hunt", you turned around, recognized me and we shook hands and sat down under a tree and talked Puerto Rico for more than an hour. You had come to Washington to visit your daughter. After that, although we exchanged letters a couple of times, we both neglected our correspondence until today.

But I want you to know that I always have cherished our old friendship, and will never forget your many kindnesses you had for the first Interpreter of the Executive Office, and, as such, of the Secretary's office, in 1900.

I am taking advantage of my good memory and my association with all the Governors of Puerto Rico, since the first Military Governor John R. Brooke and including the present Governor Blanton Winship, to write up the most important features of their different administrations, with the intention of publishing these experiences in book form. I believe that, so far, they have resulted very interesting, at least so I have been told by many people who have read them in "Puerto Rico Ilustrado", and, coming from one who writes first hand, by personal knowledge acquired by contact, it might be used as a text book for the schools. I am sending you under separate cover, a duplicate of one of my writings about Governor Winthrop, as it contains the pictures of many friends of yours of the old days - all dead now, with the exception of myself who remains behind by the designs of Almighty God for some reason.

Many changes have occurred here since you were Governor, the most important of all the top-heavy form of Administration which we ourselves have created. You would be astonished if you could read the number of departments, bureaus, commissions and offices created since 1904, many of them unnecessary, in my estimation. From an annual budget of three and a half million dollars, we have gone up to \$12,812,186.93 and the tendency is to go higher.



It is six years now since I ceased to be the Mayor of San Juan. The last time I was elected was in 1928, for a term of four years, commencing in Jan. 1929.

The Legislature of 1931, in connivance with Governor Theodore Roosevelt, passed an act doing away with the Municipal government and instituting in its place a so-called Commission form of government. Roosevelt, against the opinion of his Attorney General, signed the measure and I was kicked out of office two years before my time expired. The men who did this tried to beat me in an election and failed. It served me right; the fact is that in spite of giving the people 20 years of my life in the office as Alcalde, I should have never accepted the position when you appointed me the first time in 1903 to succeed Mayor Egozcue.

But all this is ancient history now. In 1932 a bill was enacted creating the local Bar Association (Colegio de Abogados) as a continuation of the one we had in the Spanish days. The law makes it compulsory for every lawyer to belong to the Colegio and paying an annual fee, \$6.00, and further more, it authorizes the printing of a special one dollar stamp which every lawyer must put on the first document presented in any Court in any action. This stamp is yielding over \$12,000 a year and the proceeds are dedicated to pay a small insurance policy on the life of every lawyer belonging to the association. The policy commenced with \$500.00, then was raised to \$750.00 and now to \$1,000 from January 1938. We have paid over \$18,000 and still have in bank, about \$20,000. I am the Executive Secretary of the Association, and receives a decent salary just enough to cover my necessary expenses. Thanks to this job I can subsist, for I never was inclined to save any of the high salaries that I enjoyed as Mayor and as Commissioner of Immigration.

I read in your letter that you are 80 years old, but that you are still strong and healthy- ! good for you! As for myself, I was 75 on October 13, 1937, also strong and healthy, the only thing bothers me is my eyesight-cataracts.

My son, Robert H. Jr., is and has been for the last 12 years one of the two District Judges of Ponce, and is slated for the first vacancy in the Supreme Court, as he has been recommended by the said Court on a previous occasion. There is a bill in Congress that was passed by the House, and is now for action in the Senate to raise the membership of the Court to seven, and a Committee of three Senators will visit us some time this month, to investigate the necessity of such a measure, and report. If it is approved, my son seems to have a good chance to be appointed to one of these new members.

While I am writing this letter, old friend José Mauleón (remember how troublesome he was as one of the turbas? came to see me and asked me to be remembered to you. The only other oldtimer of your days, who is still living, is Juan Hernández López, of San Juan, and Francisco Parra Capó, of Ponce.

Believe me when I say that it has been a real pleasure to write you, as it seems like old days when we used to sit and talk about



different things, most of all, the future of Puerto Rico. Today after thirty odd years, we are still talking about the future, and still wondering what it will be: statehood? independence? a special form of government? Only God knows, as the people in Washington don't seem to know themselves, Muñoz, Barbosa, Rossy, Briosó, de Diego, Giorgetty, Tous Soto and many others who labored so hard in that direction, each in his own way, have gone beyond without seeing what that future is to be.

May God bless you and keep you in good health, Judge, and believe me to remain, faithfully

Your friend,