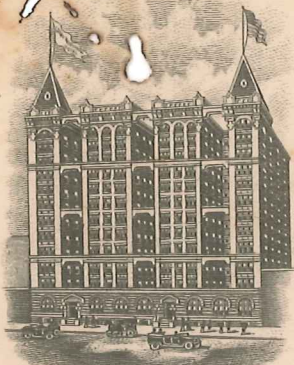


TELEPHONE:
CIRCLE 1900.



GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL
109-121 W. 56TH STREET
MAIN ENTRANCE
118 W. 57TH STREET
NEW YORK

MANGER HOTELS

HOTEL CUMBERLAND
BROADWAY AT 54TH ST.
NEW YORK

GRAND HOTEL
BROADWAY & 31ST ST.
NEW YORK

PLAZA HOTEL
NORTH AVE. & NORTH CLARK ST.
CHICAGO

NETHERLAND HOTEL
FIFTH AVE. & 59TH ST.
NEW YORK

NAVARRÉ HOTEL
SEVENTH AVE & 36TH ST.
NEW YORK

HOTEL ENDICOTT
COLUMBUS AVE. & 81ST ST.
NEW YORK

BELL APARTMENT HOTEL
1176 FOX STREET
NEW YORK

MARTHA WASHINGTON HOTEL
29 EAST 29TH ST.
NEW YORK

THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN FROM GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL

New York

April, 26, 1923.

My dear Mr. Todd:-

A mutual friend has written me that Governor Town-
er is going to re-appoint Estavies to the place I requested him to
resign from. I do not believe the governor would consider him if he
knew the facts about him and his record. You can show the governor
this letter if you want to. I have never had official secrets. That
is the chief trouble with the public service.

When I went to Porto Rico I investigated closely all the depart-
ments and found the Interior department corrupt. I told Estavies so,
and he came in and begged me not to attack him publicly, and said he
would gladly resign if I would give him a commending letter, and would
leave the office as my friend, and would never contest. I did so, then
he broke faith with me, and later began the suit to put Wilson out.

Of course he would have lost in Judge Foot's Court. But back to
Estavies. I am to go on the Chatauqua platform soon for a course of
lectures, and to talk about Porto Rico, and will make Estavies' record
in his old department the burden of my talk, and because I took that
office and those checks away from the Independents, they began the
fight against me in the states and there. Estavies told me that he
"believed in Independence, and would like to argue it with me, sometime".

I told him that he would have to cut out that kind of talk in his
office, that I would not stand for it, and he continued to talk it.

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2.

Now a few things about his official record. When I got to Porto Rico all my friends told me how he put thirty men on the roads as Inspectors to each mile just before the election, how he worked his entire department along that line, and in so doing spent hundreds of thousands of dollars corruptly. Also how he let the contract for the Carolina fifteen mile road for sixty thousand dollars, and then added one hundred and forty thousand dollars extra. I never could tell just where that extra money went. Also how he let contracts to friends who were connected with his office. Then he took thirty five hundred dollars out of his department and built himself a private home in the mountains, and when Maj. Wilson found it, Estavies at first denied that he knew anything about it, and finally we found a picture of it, and Estavies sitting on the front porch with his new wife. Wilson has the picture there, and I have one here to use in ~~my~~ my lectures. Then we got hold of the men who helped him build it. Then he confessed.

When I got to Porto Rico, there was a bill for \$2000.00, for painting three large rooms in the palace, and I had it to pay out of my "upkeep" fund. Then I asked him to paint the Kessinger house inside, and the mirador outside, and the bill came in for \$1479.00. The sum of \$250.00 would have been ample. Then I had his number, and told him to get out. But that was not all. When he heard that I was going to

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3.

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remove him from office, he hurried out and purchased \$400,000, worth of crushed rock from the firm of Travieso & Iriarte, and at a price one third more than the rock could have been purchased in the open market. Just ask Major Wilson about this he can tell you.

These are just a few of the things I ought on to while I permitted him to stay in office. I laid it all before the President, and he knew all about it at that time, and he does not forget.

I feel sure that a man with the honor of Judge Towner could not consider Estavies when he finds out the true record. If the Unionists have to have jobs, let's have honest ones as I found, and appoint them.

By the way, I have something to tell you that will interest you.

You remember the fellow Ross that the crook Jones from there "fixed" to make some affidavits against me. Well, Ross has now skipped out with over seventy thousand dollars of funds belonging to a bank in St. Louis that he was examining for the state bank commissioner.

He has been indicted by a grand jury on three counts. Best of all, I read it in the K.C. Star, the ones that used him and Jones to do the dirty work against me. Just before I left Porto Rico the prop. of the Vanderbilt hotel there told me that Jones had beat him out of a lot of money, and also that Jones had left an old aunt at the springs hotel, and ^{she had} given him money to pay her bill, but ^{he} did not do so and it is still unpaid. Crooks of this kind do not last very long. I shall be

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content to keep still about them for their records will eventually find them out. I have been ill in bed most of the time since I came here, hence my delay here. I will go to Washington in a few days, as soon as I am able to travel.

With every good wish for you,

I remain yours most sincerely,

Mont. Reilly

Personal.