

## II

### HISTORY

HISTORICAL OUTLINE—ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIAL SKETCH—NATIONALISM—THE MILITARY—TWENTY-FOUR YEARS UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES—HISTORICAL ARCHIVE—JUST FIGURES.

#### Historical Outline

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#### THE ABORIGINES

Christopher Columbus discovered the island of Porto Rico in 1493, and named it St. John the Baptist in honor of Prince John. Ponce de León explored the island in 1508, and founded the first Christian settlement. The natives called the island Boriquén. These natives were of South American Aruaco origin, a fact that I have been able to establish by means of philology, as against those who believe the natives of the Antilles to have come originally from Florida. At the time of the conquest two different Indian peoples disputed control of the archipelago: the Aruacos and the Caribs. Both came from South America, where they also fought fiercely for control of the territory.

**Aruacos—Caribs—Boriquenses.** At the time of Columbus' discovery the Caribs had already gained possession of the Windward Islands, while the Aruacos held the Greater Antilles: Cuba, San Domingo, Jamaica and Porto Rico. In each of these islands the Caribs had taken specific names. In Cuba they were Siboneyes; in San Domingo, Quisqueyanos and Haytianos; in Jamaica, Jamaicans, and in Porto Rico, Boriquenses.

**Political Organization.** The natives of Porto Rico lived in tribes inhabiting the principal valleys of the island, and were about 60,000 in number, though exaggerating historians put

the number at 600,000. They led a patriarchal life, were ruled by chiefs called Caciques, and were greatly influenced by an augurer who acted as priest, and who was called Bohique. The natives were in the polished stone period of human civilization, and were ignorant, therefore, of the use of metals.

There was a leading Cacique who lived in the southern part of the island. At the time of Ponce de León's visit this leader was a Cacique called Agueybana, and there was another less important chief in each valley who governed locally. Native villages were called yukayekes. The Cacique's dwelling was a rectangular, straw-thatched, rustic structure, and was called Caney. Contiguous to the Caney there was an open yard or space known as the Batey, where the chief aided by his lieutenant, called the Nytaíno, administered justice. The other dwellings were circular in shape and were known as Bohíos, a name which still lives in our local vocabulary.

**Religion.** As to religion the natives practiced a widespread animism symbolized by a good spirit called Zemí and an evil one called Maboya. They often had housegods whom they represented by stone idols in animal form, specimens of which exist in certain museums.

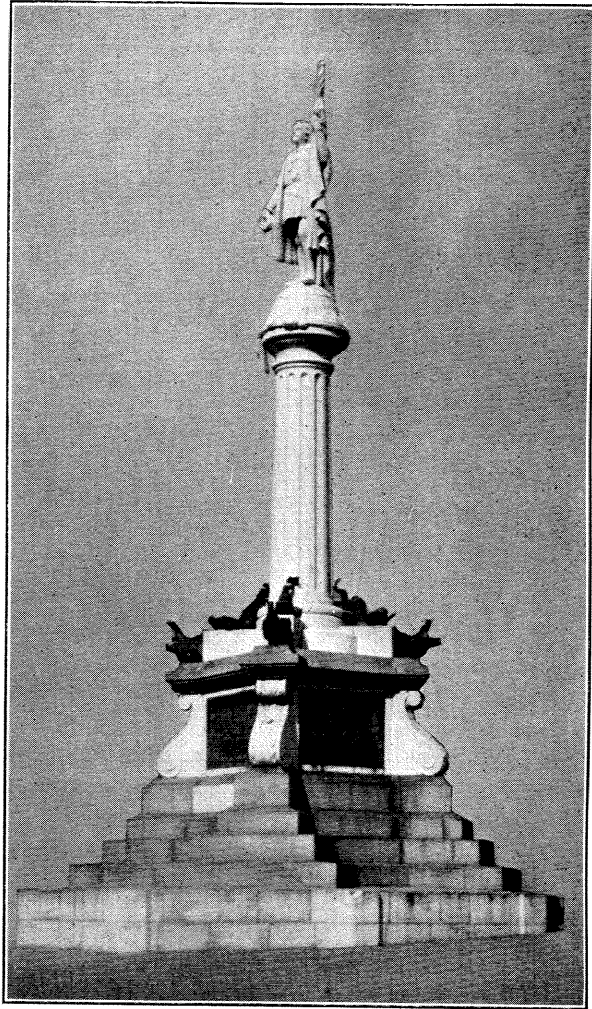
The Europeans found these natives in a state of rudimentary, primitive civilization.

## DISCOVERY

**Second Voyage of Columbus.** The Great Admiral discovered the island of Porto Rico on his second epic adventure. On this voyage the fleet consisted of 17 vessels aboard of which there were 1,500 men. Columbus' great desire was to reach Fort La Navidad, Haiti, as soon as possible, for he had left part of his first crew at that place. The first island at which the fleet touched on reaching the archipelago was Dominica, in the Windward group. From there the vessels continued to coast in a northwesterly course along the other islands, touching at all of them, until forced by the wind, they were obliged to put in at Santa Cruz. From here the fleet again took a northerly course which led them to the Virgin Islands. Veering to the northwest, Columbus discovered Porto Rico on the afternoon of November 17, 1493. Those writers who say that he followed the northern coast, such as Fr. Iñigo Abbad, Dr. Augustín Stahl, and others, are in error.

**Place of Anchorage.** During the afternoon of the 17th, and all day on the 18th, the fleet cruised the length of the southern coast of the island, some distance at sea, for fear of wrecking. A sharp lookout was kept to avoid the loss of ships as in the case of the Santa María on the first voyage. It was the habit of Columbus to reef sails at night and lie to. On the 19th he turned the Morillos de Cabo Rojo and followed the western coast to what has been described by the famous chronicler, Pedro Mártir de Anglería, as the extreme western point of the island. Here the fleet anchored. Great differences of opinion exist as to the place selected as an anchorage. It is my belief that the fleet anchored in the bay lying between Capes San Francisco and Boriquén, on the shores of which bay the towns of Rincón, Aguada and Aguadilla now stand. Don Fernando Columbus, son of the Admiral, left a brilliant description of the site chosen for anchoring. He says that fishing was plentiful, and that a native village was clearly discernible from the ships. The fleet stayed at this place for two days while the crews rested and the ships took water. From here they laid a course

for the coasts of San Domingo in search of Fort La Navidad. At the mouth of the Culebrinas river stands a monument commemorating his landing. (See Aguadilla article.)



MONUMENTO A COLÓN.—COLUMBUS STATUE AT SAN JUAN.

## CONQUEST

**Juan Ponce de León's Explorations.** In 1506 the Crown of Spain commissioned Vicente Yáñez Pinzón to conquer and colonize the Island; but his mission was not fulfilled because Yáñez proceeded with others to discover part of the continent. He was satisfied to send a few goats and hogs ashore at the Pozos de Aguada. In 1508 Juan Ponce de León agreed with Fr. Nicolás de Ovando, Governor of Hispaniola, to explore the island of Boriquén,

where there was much gold as evidenced by a sample obtained from the Indians of the islet of Mona, from which place the natives of the two neighboring islands held frequent communication by means of their swift canoes.

**Visits to the Natives.** Juan Ponce de León landed on the southern side of the island of San Juan on August 12th, 1508, at the bay of Guánica, and immediately called on the leading Cacique, Agueybana, who received him courteously. Agueybana accompanied Ponce de León on his coasting cruise around the island. From Guánica they took an easterly course, and after rounding Cape Mala Pascua dropped anchor off Yabucoa, where they received the visit of Cacique Guaraca, de Guayaney, who presented Ponce de León with several nuggets of gold. Leaving Yabucoa the ship turned the Cabezas de San Juan and came to anchor at the place known as Boca Abana, off Dorado. From here Ponce de León explored the bay by land, and selected a site on its shores for the purpose of founding the first Christian settlement—the town of Caparra.

**Distribution of the Indians.** The natives lived in harmony with the Spaniards until they were subjected to the shameful distribution known as "Trust," by which their involuntary servitude was established. Juan Ponce de León was opposed to this distribution because of the evil results thereof in Hispaniola, so he agreed with the most prominent Caciques that they should gather gold from the mines for the King of Spain. But Ponce de León was succeeded in the governorship by Juan Cerón, Don Diego Columbus' lieutenant, who organized the distribution.

**Uprising of the Indians.** Thus, Cerón gave rise to hatred, disaster and war—a matter of short duration between a primitive people and a nation of warriors. The natives were soon compelled to surrender to the reality of their misfortune. Juan Cerón was guilty of this bloodshed, and Ponce de León had to complete the conquest of the island in the smoothest manner possible. But the evil had been done, and this general uprising was followed by others, until the natives were obliged to submit entirely to the conquerors.

## COLONIZATION

### **Foundation of Caparra and San Germán.**

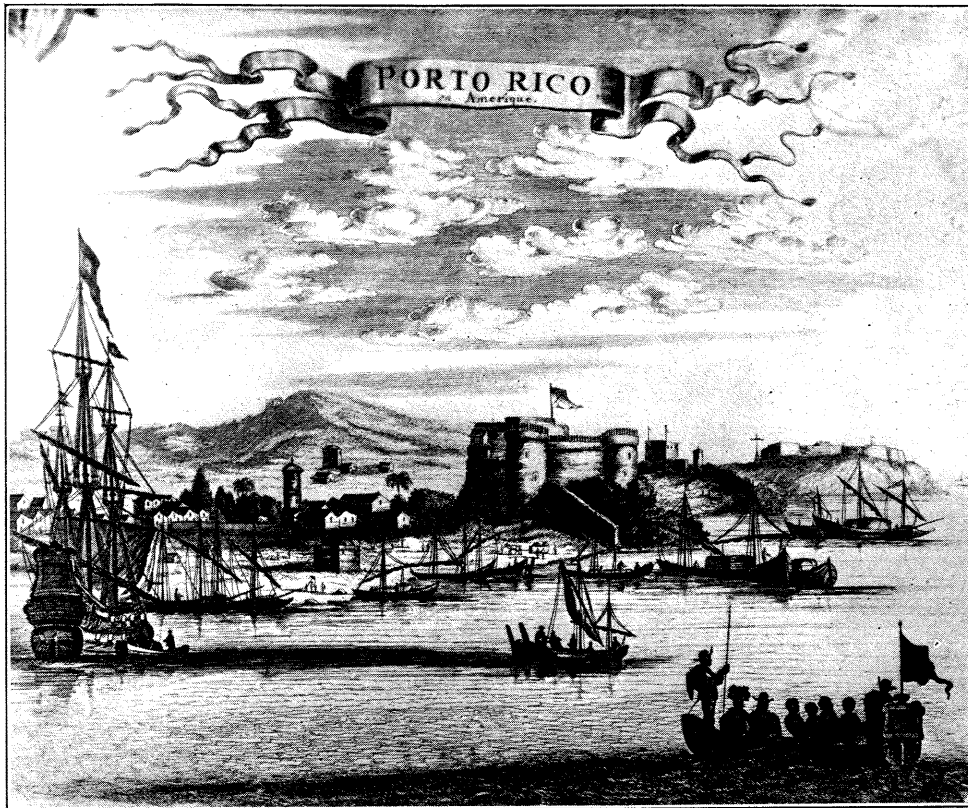
The colonization of Porto Rico commenced by the founding of the town of Caparra at the end of 1508. Those who claim that it was in 1509, and Herrera, the historian, when he gives the date as 1510, are in error. I have established the date as 1508 by a document written by Juan Ponce de León himself. The king first offered protection to the new town in 1509, by granting lots, Indians and land to those wishing to settle there. Besides, he granted to the island of San Juan all such privileges as were enjoyed by Hispaniola, and in 1511 he gave the island a coat of arms. In 1512 the town of San Germán was founded at the mouth of Añasco river, the Guaorabo. Don Miguel del Toro had already founded Santa María de Guadianilla, to the south, which town has in time become Guayanilla, after having been frequently destroyed by French privateers. The present town of San Germán was founded in 1573 with what was left of the Old San Germán, destroyed by French pirates, and with the remains of Santa María de Guadianilla. This time the banks of the Guanajibo were chosen as the site, and the town was called New Salamanca, although the name of San Germán was never discarded.

**Establishment of Other Towns.** In Velasco's geography (1570) but three towns are given on the island: San Juan, El Arecibo and Santa María de Guadianilla. The Spaniards spread throughout the valleys, mountain ranges and native villages, and new towns soon began to appear at places proper for the development of the cattle industry, such as the Coamo and Turabo (Caguas) valleys.

**Colonization Stops.** The discovery of Mexico and Peru stopped the colonization of the island, for the reason that the colonists all wanted to go to the mainland. It became necessary to issue strict orders to prevent the depopulation of Porto Rico. The general cry was, "My God, take me to Peru!" It was then that the parents of St. Rose of Lima left San Germán, and some believe they took the Saint with them, she having been born in Porto Rico and being then of tender age.

There were years during which no Spanish ships visited the island, which lived thanks to foreign contraband. The Crown of Spain busied itself with the great Inca and Aztec empires only, from where galleons carried goodly cargoes of gold in bars to the mother country, touching at Porto Rico solely to take on wood and water. In the eighteenth century colonization boomed, but the Island's chief development took place in the nineteenth.

The prohibitive system fell, however, and in 1804 the ports of Fajardo, Ponce, Cabo Rojo, Mayaguez and Aguadilla were declared open by Royal Order. This new system brought about a separation of the offices of treasurer and captain-general, the learned economist, Don Alejandro Ramírez, having been appointed intendent. In 1811 custom-houses were established in San Juan and the other open ports. Consuls were appointed to San



LA SEGUNDA FORTALEZA AMERICANA DE SU ÉPOCA.  
AN EARLY WOODCUT OF OLD SAN JUAN—THE SECOND STRONGHOLD OF AMERICA AT THE TIME

#### THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

**Porto Rico's Golden Age.** Because of the intellectual and material development of Porto Rico during this century, it may well be called Porto Rico's Golden Age. At the beginning of the century the island had a population of 150,426. At the close of the period there were 900,000 inhabitants. The island was closed to foreign commerce, the port of San Juan alone being free to send its products to Seville. This was an absolute bar to commercial develop-

Juan in 1813. There had been a printing office since 1806, where the Official Gazette was edited.

**Commission of Grace.** But it was the Royal Commission of August 10, 1815, that gave the greatest impulse to the commercial development of the island. This commission was called the Commission of Grace, and allowed foreigners to establish themselves in the country with their capital and negroes, provided they professed the Catholic religion. Many English

and French colonists migrated to Porto Rico from neighboring islands. To this influx we must add the Spaniards and creoles who fled from San Domingo and Venezuela, bringing with them not only high intellects, but also such remains of their fortunes as had been saved from the ravages of war.

**First Newspapers.** The people were entering a life of wealth as well as of thought. Following the official Gazette came the *Diario Económico*; *El Cigarrón*, in 1814; *El Diario Liberal*, in 1821; *El Eco*, in 1822, and the *Boletín Mercantil*, in 1839, numerous papers having subsequently seen the light. The Royal Commission of August 10, 1815, established the Real Audiencia Territorial (Supreme Court) and the offices of Alcaldes Mayores Letrados (Justices of lower courts), our cases having then ceased to go to the Audiencia of Puerto Principe, Cuba, on appeal.

**School Development.** The school development of Porto Rico dates from 1770, the first step having been the ordinance of Governor Miguel de Muesas. It was perfected by regulations issued by Don Francisco Tadeo de Ri-

vera in 1822. In 1832 Bishop Gutierre de Cos founded the Seminary, adjoining the bishopric, where young men were trained for the Church and educated for secular life. In 1858 this Seminary was placed under the management of the Fathers of the Society of Jesus. Next came the Civil Institute and the Jesuit College of Santurce, the College of the Sacred Heart, and other centers of learning scattered throughout the island.

During this century agricultural and industrial wealth was developed as regards the cultivation of cane, coffee and tobacco, these products being the chief sources of income.

**Abolition of Slavery.** Freedom was given to slaves in 1873, and the people of Porto Rico commenced to enjoy greater political liberty. They again had representation in the Spanish Cortes, as was the case from 1812-20.

**Autonomous Charter.** Finally, Spain granted it an autonomous charter in 1897, which was followed by the change in domination the next year, the island having passed to the United States, which since then has controlled its destiny.

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## Ethnologic-Social Sketch

By Angel Paniagua y Oller, B.A.,

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**The Basic Element Castilian.** The native of Spain, and, more properly, of Castille, from all points of view is the entity genuinely representative of the Porto Rican people, and especially from the one this paper has to deal with. The reason is that for two and one-half centuries from the beginning of the colonization the settlers came from the Kingdom of Castille, and not from Aragon, as the discovery of the New World and its conquest were effected exclusively under the auspices of the former of those kingdoms. Therefore, the fundamental ethnical element of the island's society is Castilian.

It was about the middle of the eighteenth century, and due to the commercial privileges

granted by the King to the Real Compañía Barcelonesa de Nuestra Sra. de Monserrat (the Royal Company of Our Lady of Monserrat, of Barcelona) that ethnical elements from Aragón, especially Catalonians, began to arrive in Porto Rico. Languedocian names in the books and documents of her archives make their appearance at about that time, while previously Castilian, Portuguese and a few Basque names held exclusive sway.

**Castilians the First Settlers.** As we have said, the first Spanish settlers, from Juan Ponce de León down to the last of his men, were Castilians. Even the mulatto called Mexía, who came over with them and who met a heroic death at the hands of the Caribs,

was born in Seville, which was then the Castilian metropolis, the Casa de Contratación (Enlistment Station) being established there. Seville was the port of departure of all fleets leaving for the New World. Hence, during the whole of the sixteenth century, no colonists other than Castilians came from Spain. Of these a good part were Estremenians, Andalusians and Canary Islanders, each provided with his proper residential royal commission, which in some cases carried with it a share in the distribution of Indians.

**Portuguese Colony.** At the end of the sixteenth century a true Portuguese colony was planted in Porto Rico by the detail of the first garrison for the castle of San Felipe del Morro, which was constructed on the initiative of the Governor and Captain-General, Don Diego Menéndez de Valdés. This garrison was composed of a company of Portuguese soldiers from Lisboa, sent here expressly by Philip II, who was already king of the entire Spanish peninsula, including Portugal, which had been annexed to his kingdom by virtue of his greater dynastic rights, and by the hand of the great Duke of Alba and of Sancho Dávila, "The Thunderbolt of War."

The aforesaid Portuguese garrison never left Porto Rico, and though some of the men brought their women with them, the greater part married native women. From these men many old families of the island get their Portuguese names.

During the seventeenth century ethnical or vital movement tending to add new foreign elements to the population was hardly noticeable, unless we consider the constant renewal of the military constituency, due to the increase of the garrison or to the filling of vacancies therein. This element was the almatener of our society, for Porto Rico was a military colony, stronghold or citadel.

**Andalusians and Canary Islanders.** The renewal above referred to continued during the eighteenth century just as it had taken place during the preceding hundred years, although greater activity was displayed because of the War of Succession, which necessarily required an increased garrison, and because the change of dynasty brought with it new methods, new

military ordinances and civic-military reorganization. New colonies of Andalusian and Canary Island families were expressly brought over under government auspices to promote the population of the island. These families were selected with great care, so that nearly all of them brought along their furniture, household goods and servants, in addition to an official record that did them great honor.



ALONSO DE ERCILLA, AUTOR DE "LA ARAUCANA".  
FAMOUS SPANISH SOLDIER AND POET OF THE TIME OF THE CONQUEST.

During this century numberless Spaniards surreptitiously entered the island, coming from Spain without official passports or deserting the national fleets stopping at Aguadilla for water. These sailors, deserting the ships as soon as they anchored in that port, were kindly received among the peasantry.

**Aragonese, Catalonian and Other Origins.** Aragonese settlers commenced to arrive about the middle of the eighteenth century by reason of the privilege granted to the Royal Company of Barcelona. They were chiefly Catalonians who were the first merchants the island ever had. During the last third of the century two strong regiments were garrisoned in

Porto Rico: the Walloon Guards, called the Brussels Regiment, and composed of Walloons, Flemish, Alsatians, French and a few Poles, and the Regiment of Naples, composed of Italians. A large number of the officers of these regiments remained and founded some of the principal families. The soldiers also remained in great numbers, and hence the countless non-Spanish names noticeable at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

It was during this century that Porto Rico opened its doors to commerce and to universal life. The year 1815 ushered in an extraordinary increase of population in harmony with its financial development due to the efforts of its deputy to the Cortes de Cádiz, Don Ramón Power y Giralt, and to Don Alejandro Ramírez, the first Intendent General of Finance of Porto Rico.

**From Neighboring Lands.** Colonists from Louisiana and from the French part of San Domingo—the latter having escaped from the massacre of whites by rebellious slaves—commenced to establish their residences in the island, becoming naturalized. Then came Spanish-Dominicans displeased over the cession of San Domingo forced upon Spain by the French, as well as immigrants from the southern mainland who would not accept the new order of things prevailing there as a result of the final victory of the advocates of independence. The island then experienced the splendid results of considerable immigration composed of noble, well-educated and moneyed families which contributed notably towards the financial, agricultural, intellectual and social development of the country.

**Peninsular Regiments.** It was at about this time that the unfortunate government of Philip VII, on recommendation of the Government of the island, committed the injustice and serious political error of substituting for the garrison of the city, which was almost entirely native, regiments from the peninsula. The Permanent Porto Rican Regiment was abolished and the garrison excessively increased by regiments of infantry unnecessarily brought from Spain. This step may have been advisable for the promotion of a white population if looked at from an ethnical point of

view, but from a political standpoint it fatally wounded the national patriotic sentiment of the natives and of the Spaniards born here, who were the more Spanish the more they were rooted to the country, the more flourishing their family tree, and the deeper the roots of this tree penetrated into the manor of their elders in the bosom of the mother country.

**From the North of Spain.** In the second third of this same century the commerce of Porto Rico, until then almost entirely in the hands of Catalonians, began to experience a change of personnel by the slow, automatic substitution of the Catalonians by Biscayans, Galicians, Asturians who came over a few at a time, especially the last, who gained preponderance over the others. The settling of these men in the island through marriage to native women and the constant coming of friends and relatives from Spain, contributed notably to the increase of population by the acquisition of industrious and abstemious elements. A large portion of the military element coming from Spain, also upon their discharge preferred to remain here. During this century French and Canary Island colonists also came to Porto Rico, the former being almost all industrious, intelligent Corsicans so addicted to their adopted country that their characteristic names now figure largely in all branches of material and intellectual activity. Thus was Porto Rico slowly populated to such extent that it is at present one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

**Land of Hidalgos.** As regards class or quality (to use the proper tho unfashionable technical expression), we must remember that almost all the conquerors and settlers were hidalgos, as were all the conquerors of America, this being the only class capable of carrying out the military and political purposes of the conquest and population of these lands. Moreover, the reconquest of Spain having been completed by the fall of Granada, the nobles, who had become accustomed to continuous conflict, did not rest easy in their homes. Providence gave them a fresh and greater field of action by the discovery and conquest of the New World. Thus the excess

of life and energy overflowing in Spain found an outlet in the fertile territory of America.

**San Juan a Stronghold.** The city of Porto Rico having been made a stronghold at the end of the sixteenth century, a proper garrison was sent here; and as the military regulations of the times required nobility of soldiers, because war was the nobility's natural occupation, it is needless to say that this distinguished class was greatly increased by the arrival here of these troops, such also being the case as regards the arrival of reinforcements to the garrison or the filling of vacancies therein. Nobility was required for almost all public offices, just as it was for the military profession, and candidates were obliged to furnish the strictest evidence of their descent, just as in Spain such evidence is at present required for admission to military orders. The effect of this was that in the population of European origin the proportion of hidalgos was considerable. Notwithstanding the attempts of the Cortes de Cádiz (1812) to establish equality by abolishing the privileges of primogeniture, entailments and seigniories, the test of nobility, good blood and the like, this order of things lasted till 1873, when the privileges of the nobility were finally abolished as regards public affairs. Thus did the decadence of this class begin in Porto Rico.

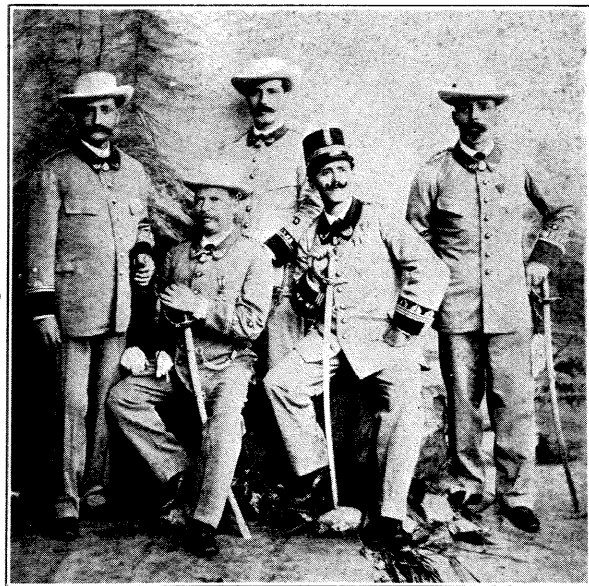
Castillian titles were very rare, for even in the metropolis they were scarce, as their bearers gathered round the court and in some of the principal cities, especially in those which had been royal residences during the old kingdom. Such was the case in America also, where there were important nucleuses in Mexico and Lima only, these being considered truly aristocratic cities. The titled class of noble descent was as prominent here as throughout the nation, and enjoyed by grant the title of gentlemen and Don, both hereditary, which they bore exclusively till the beginning of the nineteenth century. It is worthy of notice that even in the preceding century not all nobles bore the latter title, it being the object of royal grant. In the nineteenth century various titles of Castillian nobility were conferred on persons who did not pos-

sess historical lineage on which to base them, such titles being conferred merely as a reward for personal political services, and generally in conflict with public sentiment.

As to the other races living with the whites in Porto Rico, we give the following facts:

**Aborigines.** At the time of the discovery the aboriginal Indians were divided into two well-defined classes. The *taínos* or *nytaínos*, called "noble Indians" by the Spaniards. These constituted the nobility and warring class, and were, so to say, the lords of the land. The others were *naborias* or *nabories*, plebeian Indians, who tilled the soil, fished and performed all sorts of menial labor for their natural masters, the *nitaynos*. These two castes came originally from two different races, or, more correctly, from two different peoples. The *nytaínos* being of Caribbean origin, their ancestors having conquered *Boriquén* shortly prior to the discovery, and having subjugated the native *nabories*, who from that time on were reduced to the conditions of serfs.

At the time of the Indian rebellion of 1511, the *nytaínos* having been defeated, they emigrated to the Windward Islands, whence they continued hostilities against Porto Rico during the entire sixteenth century. There remained on the island, therefore, the *nabories* and a



OFICIALES DEL ANTIGUO CUERPO DE VOLUNTARIOS.  
SPANISH VOLUNTEER CORPS OFFICERS.



few *nytaínos* who had either not taken part in the rebellion or had submitted to the Spaniards. Among the latter were the so-called Don Alonso (a name given by the Spanish), at Otuaó; Cacique Caguax, in the valley bearing his name, and others, with their *nitayno* satellites and their *naboríes*. It is worthy of notice that when the first distribution of the native population was made among the conquerors as a trust pursuant to royal commissions, it showed a total of 5,500 Indians, including *nitaynos* and *naboríes* of both sexes and all ages. Allowing for possible omissions and giving them the greatest possible latitude, the entire Indian population found on this island could have in no manner exceeded 7,000 or 8,000. This number was reduced by war, emigration and especially by epidemic diseases appearing among them, prominent among which was smallpox. By reason of their ignorance of the malady a terrible mortality ensued, and the Indian population became exceedingly small; but they were not wholly eliminated, as some modern writers suppose, because of erroneous interpretations of the hyperbolic language and the special syntax contained in the documents of the age.

**Fusion of Races.** There were left, therefore, a sufficient number of Indians to allow this extremely interesting race to live, theirs being the best title to the soil of the island. Even today full-blooded specimens are not rare, and in exchange for the Indians' quasi-extinction as a pure race they have multiplied extraordinarily by mixing with the white race, the result of this being that caste of *jíbaros* (peasants) possessing a pallid white skin, strong, wiry hair, high cheekbones, thick lips and a large, fleshy mouth, which show clearly the mixture of the conqueror and the conquered, although it is true that such mixture was not effected at the time of the conquest, notwithstanding some crosses which then took place. The mixture occurred during the last two centuries, for when the Indians were given absolute freedom, in 1520, they withdrew to live by themselves separately from whites and negroes, with the latter of whom they were never on very good terms. They lived

thus isolated until the middle of the eighteenth century, when the general needs of the island and their own needs put an end to their isolation, and, consequently, to the purity of their race.

**Origin of the Jíbaro.** It should be stated that in speaking of the *jíbaro* with an admixture of Indian blood, this should not be understood of all *jíbaros*. On the contrary, the great majority of them are pure white, and in my opinion are descended not so much from the conquerors who in a great part founded the trunks of the principal families, as from the sailors and others who deserted in large numbers yearly from the fleets touching at Porto Rico. The first peasants, however, must have been the descendants of the farmers who came over with Father Las Casas to colonize the mainland. The generous undertaking of the protector of the Indians having failed, the majority of these farmers remained in Porto Rico, where, because of the lack of farmhands, they were well received.

**The African Factor.** As to the negroes, the other race living with the whites in Porto Rico, their African origin and how they were brought here as slaves from the coast of Guinea, where they were already in slavery, are things well known to all.

They were obtained on the coast of Guinea by Flemish, Genoese, Portuguese, Dutch, French and English traders and brought here for sale on the dock or at the negro barracks of the Marina or on Tetuán Street, then called Barracks Street. This traffic constitutes the darkest page of Porto Rican civilization, no advantage having accrued to the African continent and the result of such trade having proved fatal to the New World. For slavery is in itself an institution of such nature that it injures the owner more than it does the slave. It degenerates, lowers and prostitutes the noblest sentiments. That is why the first act of the patriots who gave the cry of independence in Cuba at the time of the Ten Years' War was to free their own numerous slaves. Slavery has left an indelible mark among the blacks as well as among the whites. It has been America's curse.

The pure black race has not multiplied in Porto Rico as it has in the British colonies and elsewhere, its number being stationary with a tendency to diminish. This has not been because of virtual lack of prolific power, but because of incessant crossing with the mixed types, and even with the whites themselves in the blacks' logical aspiration for racial improvement. This fact makes the black race numerically inferior to the advantage of the mixed race, the number of whose members grows larger every day, since to its own offspring are added the mulattoes produced by

the inevitable contact of certain members of the two pure races.

Summarizing: Three pure races and their crosses live in Porto Rico, but the proportion of the pure white race as compared with the entire population is considerable and grows larger each day, it being noticeable that such sections of the island as are totally or almost exclusively inhabited by whites are the most prolific, and constantly produce an excess of population. This is true to such an extent that from such sections there is a continuous migration to other regions.

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### Nationalism in Porto Rico

By Manuel Guzmán Rodríguez, M.D.,

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Greater independence and liberal self-government of Porto Rico has always been the constant desire of Porto Ricans since the early days of the nineteenth century up to the present time.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the municipal government of San Germán, in its instruction to Power, then Deputy to the Cortes of Spain, recognized the sovereignty of Ferdinand VIIth but, "advising"—says Brau, the historian—"that in case that said sovereignty does not prevail, the island would regain possession of her natural rights to govern itself in the best possible way." "The spirit of independence prevailing in Caracas, in 1810," says another historian, "agitates the minds of some Porto Ricans."

The idea of independence was strengthened in the island by the independence of Venezuela in 1811, and that of Santo Domingo in 1821.

Secret movements towards the independence of Porto Rico took place in Saint Thomas and in some parts of the Island in the years 1823 and 1824.

The military uprising planned in 1835, in which more than 1,500 civilians also aimed to take part, failed, its only results being the se-

vere punishment of a group of patriots. (See Appendix A.)

Pérez Moris and Cueto, the Spanish historians, considered this uprising as "the first serious step to secessionism."

Another attempt of a military uprising again failed in San Juan in 1838, and from which resulted the more or less severe punishment of many men. (See Appendix B.)

In 1864, Captain Luis Padiá y Vizcarrondo was sent to Spain, because the Government believed that he was appointed chief of the revolution that was being planned.

In 1867, Benito Montero, a corporal of the Artillery Battalion, was shot because of another attempted rebellion, and many patriots were exiled or otherwise punished, because they were supposed to be the instigators of said movement. (See Appendix C.)

In 1868, the Lares rebellion arose. This, the greatest armed protest that had ever been made, was the result of the revolutionary activities of Dr. Betances.

In 1873, the "estrellada" took place, this being an assault by the volunteer corps and the "Guardia Civil" (Civil Guard) on the home of the Estrella family of Camuy. Brau and Coll

y Toste considered this attack due to political intrigue; the fact is that after the Lares rebellion, as Brau says, "the revolutionary propaganda continued to be directed from Saint Thomas by Dr. Betances," and that Commander Rosado Brincau, in charge of the Spanish forces in that district, considered of more importance the possible Camuy uprising than the Lares rebellion. Many of those arrested died in prisons, and those to whom pardon was granted were sick and disabled when set free. According to the proclamation of Governor Martínez Plowes, the Military Commander of Arecibo reported that ten policemen and eleven volunteers dispersed three hundred rebels, killing three of them, two being badly wounded and sixteen taken prisoners.

In 1874, arms were brought to the island by Betances through the port of Guánica, according to the memoir of Mr. Petro María Descartés, and in 1875 another revolutionary movement was organized but being disclosed, it caused the imprisonment in the jail of Ponce of Juan Bautista Vidarte and Petro María Descartés.

In 1887, the activities of the "Secret Societies," were developed, and so strongly developed that the "componete" was employed—inquisitorial tortures applied by the "Guardia Civil" (Civil Guard) in the times of General Palacios' government, which persecuted several prominent men of the Autonomous Party, although the majority of the persecuted declared that they had not taken any part in those secret revolutionary movements.

Among the prisoners held in "El Morro" in that year were Pedro María Descartés, who told the author that he was the President of the secret society "La Torre del Viejo," and José Vicente González, who was punished by "componete" because it was believed that he was a member of said societies.

In the same year a riot took place in Yauco, the result of which was the exile of the head of the movement, Fidel Vélez, the punishment of Juan Nazario, Nicolás Quiñones and other rebels and conspirators, and of the newspapermen Félix Matos Bernier, Tomás Carrión Madero and Juan Roig, then a clerk in the business establishment of Antonio Mattei Lluveras,

the promoter of the uprising who was in New York, trying to organize an expedition to aid the triumph of the movement.

In 1898, when the American occupation took place, a number of persons aided the invaders, hoping thereby to gain through them the independence of Porto Rico. (See Appendix D.)

The occupation of the Island by the Americans having succeeded, the "Liga de Patriotas Puertorriqueños" (Porto Rican Patriots' League) hauled up their white banner. This organization, founded by Eugenio María de Hostos, asked for a general expression of opinion by vote to pass on the question of independence of the Island. But because of lack of able political leaders, and of the opposition of the new government, the ideal was forgotten. Years later it reappeared again in the party "Unión Puertorriqueña" (The Union Party of Porto Rico) founded by Rosendo Matienzo Cintrón and later on in the "Partido de la Independencia" (Independence Party) founded by Matienzo, Dr. Manuel Zeno Gandía, Dr. Rafael del Valle and others. (See Appendix E.)

The desire for independence was retained as the fifth plank of the Program of the Unionist Party, whose leader was Luis Muñoz Rivera.

In the last days of his life, Matienzo having died, the propaganda of the independence ideal was intensified by the efforts of José de Diego, who finished his propaganda in New York, in fact died there.

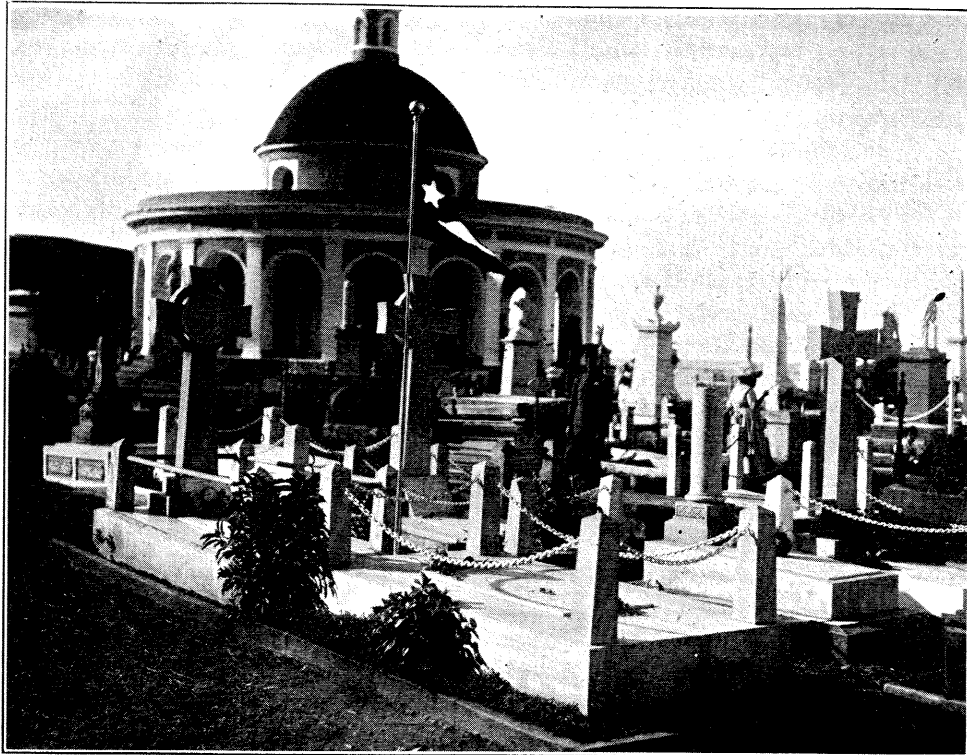
His colleagues and several of Betances and Hostos, continued the movement and the "Asociación Independentista" was founded in San Juan, being presided over by Julio César González, who organized other associations in Mayagüez and Ponce. The students also formed organizations called "Juventud Nacionalista" at Institutes, Colleges and the University, in San Juan, Santurce, Río Piedras and other towns of the island.

The "Partido Independentista Mayagüezano" was founded in a great meeting that took place in Mayagüez in the Yagüez Theater, presided over by the author. Two years and five months later on September 22, 1920, the "Partido Independentista Mayagüezano" was reorganized adding to the previous members many other prominent men.

On September 30, 1920, some days before the elections, the last day of registration of the different parties in fact, the "Partido Independentista" was registered, by petition of the President of the Committee, Pedro Mallén, and presented the following candidates: Representative to the Legislative Assembly by the Mayagüez District, José Ramón Freyre, the candidates for the Municipal Assembly of

was definitely constituted under the presidency of José Coll y Cuchí, and a Supreme Council also constituted to be presided over by the same gentleman.

**Prominent Men Banished.** Of the men exiled in 1867, Betances, Ruiz Belvis and Carlos Elio Lacroix were rebels till their death. Goico and Goenaga were not conspirators according to testimony of their families. Blanco was a



TUMBA DEL PATRIOTA JOSÉ DE DIEGO.  
TOMB OF DE DIEGO DECORATED WITH HIS BELOVED ISLAND'S FLAG.

Mayagüez district being, Dr. Manuel Guzmán Rodríguez, Rodolfo Ramírez Vigo, Alfredo Collado, Juan Luciano, Hermógenes Rivera, Enrique Morales, Justo Vélez and José Rivera Olán.

The activities of the Nationalist Associations continued after the elections were over, and in an assembly held in the theater "Habana" in Ponce, and presided over by Dr. Guillermo Salazar, an agreement was made to hold another assembly for the establishment of the Nationalist Party.

On September 17th, 1922, in the "Teatro Nuevo" of Río Piedras, the Nationalist Party

conspirator in the days of exile, but later he ceased to be. Romero de Togores separated from Betances. Lacroix, the Poncean poet, was secretary of the Porto Rican Revolutionary Committee, in Santo Domingo, and Delegate of said Committee in Porto Rico. Betances wrote the following about him: "We must remember the Poncean citizen Lacroix, always happy, the same before danger as he was in his humorous verses." Ruiz Belvis died in Chile, working for the independence of the Island.

**The Lares Rebellion.** The Lares rebellion was the result of the revolutionary activities of Dr. Betances. He wrote the following about

it: "Nobody knows the hardships, the anxieties and the dangers that such sudden attack cost us, what was done, nor the results obtained, the pains suffered, the deaths, the mourning, that followed, the hardships suffered by the exiled nor the recognition they deserve."

In the attack or because of later persecutions a number of men lost their lives. (Appendix F.)

Manuel Rosado, who was the banner bearer was wounded, imprisoned and a little later died of yellow fever in the jail of Aguadilla.

Manuel Rojas, the leader of the movement, returned to his country, Venezuela, where he died blind and forgotten. The embroiderers of the Star on the three flags carried in the rebellion were Mrs. Mariana Bracety, Mrs. Dolores Cos and Mrs. Eduvigis Beauchamp.

Seventy-nine of the 479 prisoners of the insurrection held at the disposal of Judge Navasqués, for trial, died of yellow fever in the jails of Arecibo and Aguadilla, and the leaders, Messrs. Andrés Pol, Ignacio Balbino Ortolaza, Pedro Segundo García, Manuel Rojas, Rodolfo Echevarría, and Clodomiro E. Abril were condemned to capital punishment.

The provisional government was constituted by Francisco Ramírez, Dominican; Judge Aurelio Méndez, Federico Valenciano, clerk of the Court; Manuel Ramírez, Dominican, and Bernabé Pol, a landowner, the majority of them being natives. The leaders in this uprising are given in Appendix G.

**The Reign of Terror.** This was the name given to the epoch in which the punishment known as the "composte" was applied. In "Apuntes para la Historia" by Francisco Mariano Quiñones, the outrages and imprisonments which occurred in 1887 were recorded. In a wall of a vault in the Morro Castle where the prisoners were held, there is a bronze tablet on which the names of the prisoners of greatest political importance are engraved. These names being: Román Baldorioty de Castro, Salvador Carbonell, Tomás Vázquez, Francisco Cepeda, Manuel Zabala, Pedro Ma. Descartés, Santiago R. Palmer, Ramón Marín, Antonio Molina, José V. González, Ulises Dalmau, Rodolfo Figueroa, Epifanio Pieras and Negroni

who owed their liberty and their lives to the prompt removal of General Palacios.

**The Yauco Uprising.** This uprising was due to the efforts of a group of men (see Appendix H) but failed in its purpose at the first shot. The only one wounded was Agapito Santana, but a good many were imprisoned and some had to leave the island. The leader, Fidel Vélez, shot his revolver to give the alarm when he was surprised by the shooting of the Spaniards near the cemetery. Nicolás Quiñones, who intended to disarm a sentinel and then escape, was condemned to death, the punishment being commuted, later, to imprisonment. At the time of the establishment of the Autonomy, eight months later, they were set free.

**Porto Rico Section.** The Porto Rico Section of the Revolutionist Party in New York was composed of many brilliant workers. (See Appendix I.) In its activities in different epochs this section aided the campaign of the Porto Rican General, Juan Rius Rivera; of the Dominican General, Agustín F. Morales and of the Cuban General, José Lacret Morlot. Gerardo Forrest became a commander of the "Ejército Libertador" in the Cuban jungle. Among the enthusiastic co-operators of the Porto Rican Section of the Cuban Revolutionist Party the names of Antonio Vélez Alvarado and of the good friend Martí, member of the Supreme Council of the Nationalist Party established in September, 1922, must be mentioned, the names of the emissaries of the revolution being given in (Appendix J). These gentlemen arrived in the Island, during the Spanish dominion, in a commission of the secessionist clubs.

**The American Occupation.** The "Crónica de la Guerra Hispano-Americana," by Angel Rivero, publishes the letter of Félix Matos Bernier, in which he offered his services and those of other men to General Miles. In the newspaper, "El Aguila de Ponce," was also published a historic work by Pedro María Descartés, in which he related the story of his aid and that of others given to the forces of Colonel Hullings.

**Porto Rican Patriots League.** Organized by Eugenio Ma. de Hostos, the Porto Rican Patriots' League could not fulfill its mission due

to the causes mentioned. The founder, seeing that his activities had fallen and that his call for a meeting was not heeded, abandoned the island, called by his adherents in Santo Domingo and there he died, thinking of the great misfortune of the mother island.

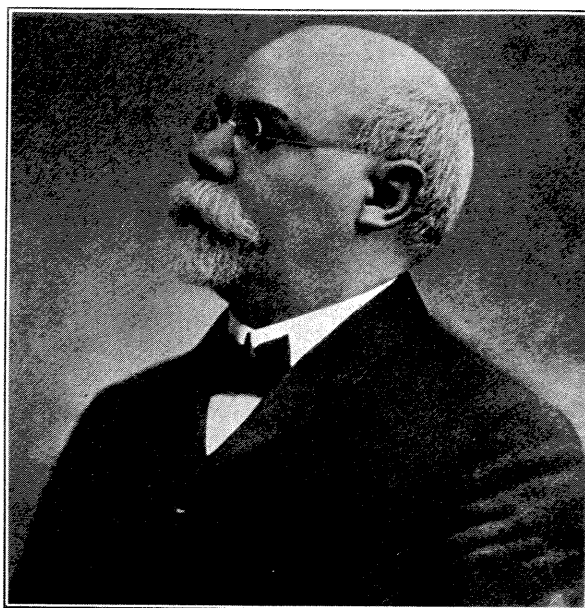
After the arrival of the patriot Eugenio Ma. de Hostos, "El Correo de Puerto Rico," the organ of the Patriots' League, was founded by the Dominican writer, Eugenio Deschamps and the Porto Rican journalist, Eugenio Astol. The Porto Rican newspaperman, José Contreras Ramós, contributed also in that paper and Eugenio de Hostos published in it his propaganda. Other party newspapers of the Patriots' League were established as follows:

"El Amigo del Pueblo," founded in Ponce by Dr. Tomás Cerón Camargo of Colombian nationality, a lawyer and a newspaperman, for the purpose of advocating for the independence of Porto Rico.

**"Unión de Puerto Rico."** The "Unión de Puerto Rico" was conceived and realized by Matienzo Cintrón, and after the work was initiated by the Federal Party, which was dissolved so as to constitute a strong group under the name "Unión de Puerto Rico." The doctors Zeno Gandía and del Valle contributed with Matienzo for the development of the party "Unión de Puerto Rico," in which their desire for independence was included in the Fifth Plank of its Platform. Luis Muñoz Rivera and José de Diego who had analogous ideals, defended independence in political campaigns. After the death of Muñoz Rivera, the Unionist Party being presided over by Antonio Barceló, sustained in its program the desire for independence until the assembly of February, 1922, was held, in which for the independence plank was substituted the following Declaration of Principles:

"That it always having been the supreme ideal of the Unionist Party—just as it has been and is that of all worthy peoples throughout history—the institution of a free country, master of its own destiny for the present and the future.

"And it being highly desirable that for the better assurance of said liberty there must ex-



ROSENDO MATIENZO CINTRÓN.—PATRIOT, LEADER AND ORATOR.

ist an association of a permanent and indestructible character, between the Island and the United States of America, the advantages and conveniences of which can be conceived of from what has been derived for both the United States and Porto Rico out of a mere association during the last twenty-three years; and the results of such association would be felt beyond the territorial limits of Porto Rico and the United States, because far beyond those limits said Association would revive many hopes and cause the disappearance of many fears; it is resolved by the Party "Unión de Puerto Rico," gathered in Supreme Assembly: that the founding in Porto Rico of a state, country or community which may be free and may be associated with the United States of America, is the aim and aspiration of Porto Ricans, thus solving honestly, satisfactorily and finally the problem pending solution as to what are to be the relations between both countries."

In virtue of the above, the Assembly declares that the creation of the Free Associated State of Porto Rico is from this day on, the Program of the Party "Unión de Puerto Rico;" and to the realization of that Program the glorious party will devote all its earnest efforts, that

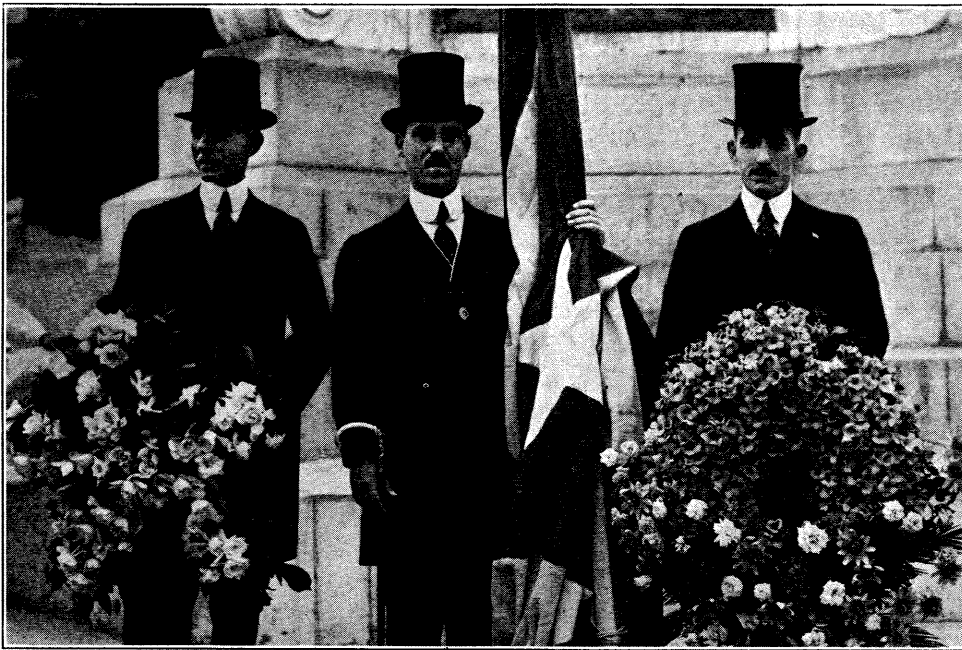
party which was founded in a solemn hour by immortal men of our country, and which is yet bound to create, just as they did, an immortal work."

**Independence Party.** Some men from the Unionist Party and others from the Republican Party having joined, organized at the same time the Civic Association, working toward independence. Matienzo and Benítez Castaño having died, José de Diego was the most noted promoter in his independent campaigns, the last of his glorious life, but he remained always

ized into a third one presided over by Rafael Díez de Andino.

The "Juventud Nacionalista" of San Juan has been presided over by the students, A. Colorado, Florentino Prieto Adzuar and José Paniagua. In Santurce Samuel Quiñones presided over the association, and in Río Piedras, Guillermo Silva. The Nationalist Association of Río Piedras which gave so much impulse to the movement has Julio Medina González as Honorary President.

**"Caballeros de la Raza" and the "Estrella**



(DE IZQUIERDA A DERECHA) DON RAFAEL DÍEZ DE ANDINO, LIC. JOSÉ S. ALEGRÍA Y LIC. JULIO CÉSAR GONZÁLEZ.—THREE OF THE NATIONALIST LEADERS OF TODAY.

in the Unionist Party in whose program, the desire for independence was included.

**Nationalist Associations.** The Associations which once worked with the Unionist Party seceded, raised their own flag, and after various attempts, founded the Nationalist Party on September 17th, 1922.

In San Juan there exists three such Associations besides the "Juventud Nacionalista." The first one was presided over by Julio César González, and another one by José Coll y Cuchí.

In an assembly held at the Municipal theater the two existing associations were reorgan-

**Solitaria.** These orders were founded at San Juan and Ponce, and were made up of prominent promoters of the ideal. The "Caballeros de la Raza" published a famous manifest, "To the Farmer Labor Party," of the United States and "To Porto Ricans and Spanish-Americans residing in that city," signed by one hundred and fourteen nationalists of San Juan and of the island, under date of April 1, 1921.

In Carolina, Caguas, Cayey, Yabucoa, Comerío, Aibonito, Salinas, Juncos, Bayamón, Cataño and other towns there also existed similar associations which strengthened the movement.

The Order of the "Caballeros de la Estrella Solitaria" in Ponce, composed of ninety members, used to raise over their homes on every holiday their one-star banner.

**Nationalism and the Arts and Letters.** The sentiment for independence inspired the epic chant "Aguelynaba el Bravo," by Daniel Rivera; "La Peregrinación de Bayoán," and the "Himno Borincano," by Eugenio Ma. de Hostos; the revolutionary composition entitled

"En la arena," by Francisco Gonzalo Marín; the "Elegía de Hostos," musical composition by José María Rodríguez Arresón; "Ante el Paso del Déspota," by Luis Muñoz Rivera; the "Cantos de Rebeldía," by José de Diego; "El Grito de Lares," a historical drama by Luis Llorens Torres and the book entitled "Una Idea y unos Hombres," by José Coll Vidal. The list of the names of nationalist writers is too long to be mentioned here.

#### APPENDIX TO NATIONALISM IN PORTO RICO

**Principal Men Who Either Participated in the Stirring Events Chronicled in Said Article, or Who Were Affected by Them.**

Note: The letter preceding the following groups of names is that which, in the text, designates the event with which they were connected or were affected.

Appendix A. Captain Loizaga, Joaquín de la Cruz Goyena, José Antonio Merenó, Pascual Marsal, José Ma. Cano, Agustín Ayesa and Sebastián José Rivero.

Appendix B. Andrés and Juan Vizcarrondo, Buenaventura Valentín Quiñones, Lorenzo Vizcarrondo, Pablo Andino, Francisco Salinas and Ezequiel Santillana.

Appendix C. Dr. Goico, Dr. Betances, Segundo Ruiz Belvis, Julián Blanco, José de Celis Aguilera, Rufino de Goenaga, Carlos Elio Lacroix, Dr. Calixto Romero Togores and Vicente María Quiñones.

Appendix D. Félix and Rafael Matos Bernier, Pedro Ma. Descartés, Rodulfo Figueroa, Encarnación Maldonado, Luis Guayama, Eduardo Lugo Viñas, Celedonio Carbonell, Antonio Mattei Lluveras, Mateo Fajardo, José Remotti, Enrique González, Dr. Santiago Veve, Prisco Vizcarrondo, Rafael A. Marxuach, Rafael Muñoz García, José Budet, Pedro Juan Besosa.

Appendix E. Dr. Manuel Quevedo Baez, Juan Hernández López, Rafael López Landrón, Luis Muñoz Morales, Jesús Ma. Lago, Manuel Rodríguez Serra, Vicente Balbás and Eugenio Benítez Castaño.

Appendix F. Mathias Bruckman, Baldomero Baurén, Joaquín Parrilla, Venancio Román, Manuel de León and Manuel Rosado.

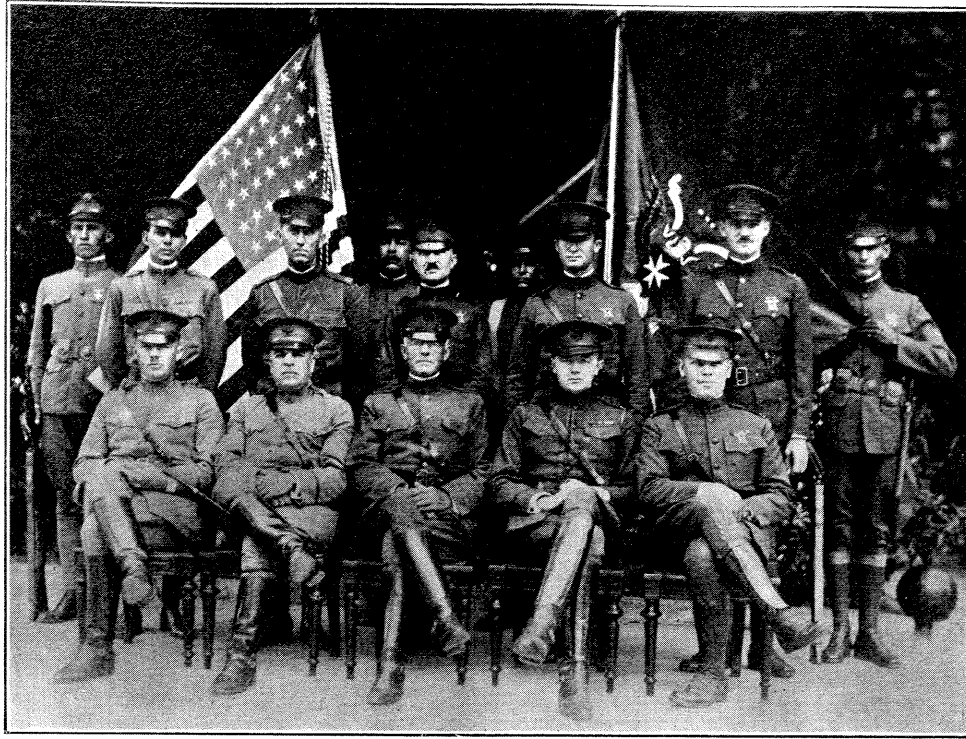
Appendix G. Juan Terreforte; Pedro, Pablo, Zoilo, Dionisio and Dorval Beauchamp; Rafael and Francisco Terreforte, Juan B. Ramírez, Mathias and Enrique Bruckman, Baldomero Baurén, Francisco and Rafael Arroyo, Pedro Angleró, Clodomiro Abril, Ignacio and Fermín Ortoloza, Andrés Pol, Pedro Segundo García, Miguel Rojas, Rodulfo Echevarría, Leoncio Rivera, Manuel Cebollero, Eusebio Ibarra, Pablo Rivera, Clodomiro Plumey, Joaquín and Manuel Parrilla, Cesáreo Martínez, Manuel de León, Ramón, Rodrigo and Agustín Font, Gabino Plumey, Cecilio López, Juan J. Rivera, Francisco, Gerardo and Nepomuceno Méndez and Angel Medina.

Appendix H. Antonio Mattei Lluveras, Juan Roig, Manuel Cátala, Eduardo Lugo Viñas, Félix Matos Bernier, Tomás Carrión Maduro, Fidel Vélez, Juan Nazario, Manuel and José Budet.

Appendix I. Dr. Julio J. Henna, Juan de Mata Terreforte, Manuel Besosa, Sotero Figueroa, Gerardo Forrest and Roberto H. Todd.

Appendix J. Alfredo Aguayo, Gerardo Forrest, Aurelio and Otilio Méndez Serrano, Aurelio Méndez Martínez, Juan Nepomuceno Castro, Antonio Aracil and Hilario Rangel.





OFICIALIDAD DEL REGIMIENTO DE PUERTO RICO. EL CORONEL ROSS ES LA FIGURA CENTRAL EN LA PRIMERA FILA.  
STAFF OF THE 65TH INFANTRY, U. S. A. COL. ROSS IS THE CENTER FIGURE SEATED IN FIRST ROW.

## The Military in Porto Rico

By Col. Tenny Ross, U. S. A.

In Command of the Porto Rican Regiment of Infantry, U. S. Army.

Alert to the importance of military preparedness, from the earliest days of the colony, the Spaniards organized and trained the Porto Ricans for defense. At first the militia existed only in small groups; later a somewhat permanent regiment was formed, called the "Regimiento de Fijos," which distinguished itself several times during attacks upon the Island. In 1818 the Spanish Government, apparently without good reason, mustered out this regiment, and in 1870 extended similar treatment to the remaining Porto Rican militia; in their stead the Civil Guard, a body of troops consisting of Spaniards, came into existence.

**Force Seldom Needed to Preserve Order in Porto Rico.** Glancing backward for a moment, we see that troops have very seldom been needed to preserve order in Porto Rico; the few in-

stances when such need did arise were during the early days of the colony. In 1511 Ponce de León, the military governor, in command of a handful of soldiers, took the field with his men to subdue an Indian uprising. At intervals after 1520 there were pirate raids upon the coasts, which demanded military measures of resistance, and led to the first fortifying of San Juan.

Although Porto Rico never engaged in any wars of its own, the Island from time to time became involved in the great contests which Spain was waging; and most recently it devoted itself unreservedly to the cause of the Allies in the World War. The record may be briefly summarized:

On Nov. 12, 1595, the English under Sir John Hawkins and Admiral Drake, were repulsed in their effort to enter San Juan harbor; the de-

fenders employed 40 pieces of artillery on El Morro and 100 more on shipboard. Sir George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, on June 6, 1598, landed an English force of 1,000 men at Santurce and actually captured all the defenses of San Juan excepting El Morro; an epidemic of yellow fever, however, broke out amongst the mosquito-bitten invaders and, within forty days, compelled their withdrawal. The Dutch, under Boudoyno Henrico, in 1625, occupied the city, and for 28 days besieged El Morro and La Fortaleza; the issue was romantically decided by single combat with swords in which a Porto Rican captain, Amézquita, defeated and mortally wounded the Dutch commander. Sir Ralph Abercromby with a large English fleet attacked San Juan in 1797, the city then being the second most powerful stronghold in all America; the defense by the Spanish Captain General, Don Ramón de Castro, and his army, consisting mostly of Porto Ricans, was so brilliant that the attack failed.

In 1898 the Spanish garrison of Porto Rico consisted of 8,233 regular soldiers of all arms and some 9,100 volunteers, of whom about 800 were Porto Ricans. On July 25 an American force of 3,415 men of the Inf. and F. Arty. with two companies of Engrs. and a detachment of signal troops, under the command of Gen. Nelson A. Miles, effected a landing at Guánica and Ponce with little opposition; the total of American invaders was presently increased to 15,199 and rapid progress was made in occupying the Island. The war then being in its later stages, the Americans encountered only slight resistance; an armistice put an end to active military operations on Aug. 12. In accordance with the Treaty of Peace the Spanish troops evacuated Porto Rico in Oct., 1898.

**Military Government Created.** In October, 1898, the American military government was created, and the military Department of Porto Rico assumed control of Insular military affairs. Posts were established at San Juan, Ponce, Mayaguez, Arecibo, Aguadilla, Cayey, San Germán, Bayamón, Manatí, Lares, Aibonito and Vieques and were maintained during the ensuing two years; all the troops in these posts were, however, relieved before February 23, 1901, by detachments of the new P. R. Regt.

**Porto Rican Regiment.** This command was organized pursuant to Sec. 12 of the Act of Congress (approved March 2, 1899), by Dept. Commander Major General Guy V. Henry, U. S. Vol., the first step being the issuance of Circular No. 6, Hdqrs. Dept of P. R. on Mch. 24, 1899. It was directed that one battalion be formed; and on May 20, 1899 (by G. O. 65, Dept. of P. R.), the companies were designated as A, B, C and D, and to each was assigned a strength of 100 men. On June 5, 1899, Capt. Lorenzo P. Davison was appointed Major of the battalion with station at San Juan; and shortly thereafter the enlisted strength of each company was increased to 112 men, so as to conform to the war strength of similar organizations in the Regular Army. G. O. 34, Hdqrs. Dept. of P. R. (on Feb. 12, 1900), directed the organization of a 2d Battalion to consist of Cos. E, F, G and H; these companies were mounted. G. O. 38, Dept. of P. R. (Feb. 20, 1900), directed that the two battalions be known as the Porto Rican Regiment, U. S. Vols.; G. O. 50, Hdqrs. Dept. of P. R. (Mch. 8, 1900), changed the designation to the Porto Rican Regiment U. S. Vol. Inf. On the same day Lt. Col. James A. Bacharan (Major 15th Inf.) was commissioned in the regiment and assumed command with station in San Juan.

G. O. 72, A. G. O. (May 30, 1901), directed that the P. R. Reg., U. S. Vol. Inf. be mustered out of service and that a new organization, to be known as the Porto Rican Provisional Regiment of Infantry, be organized, consisting of two four-company battalions, one mounted and the other foot; these changes were completed by June 30, 1901. All the officers of the Vol. Reg., excepting one, were reappointed in the Provisional Reg. In 1902 the strength of the companies was reduced to 65 men. Restricted to service in Porto Rico prior to 1903, the Reg., by G. O. 24, W. D., of that year was relieved of the restriction. At this time the second battalion was ordered dismounted.

Pursuant to Act of Congress approved May 27, 1908, the Provisional Reg. became part of the Regular Army under the name of the Porto Rican Reg. of Inf., U. S. Army. The Act of June 3, 1916, added a third battalion to

the Reg., authorized a Machine Gun Co. and a Supply Co., and increased the enlisted strength of the Rifle Cos., thus constituting the Reg., with some exceptions as to commissioned personnel, in accordance with the organization prescribed for the other regular regiments of infantry.

**Reorganization to Meet World War Requirements.** In May, 1917, the regiment was reorganized in accordance with World War requirements, and during the ensuing three months the command was transferred to Panama, where until Mch., 1919, it served as part of the war garrison of the Canal Zone. By the reorganization Act of June 4, 1920, the regiment was redesignated the 65th Inf., U. S. Army, and placed upon an equal footing with the remainder of the Regular Army.

**National Guard Organized.** By the National Defense Act of June 3, 1916, the organization of a National Guard was authorized for Porto Rico, and the work was actively begun as soon (Nov., 1919) as funds were made available by Congress. The Reg. of Inf. was, by Jan., 1922, complete with a personnel of 71 officers and 1,500 men; and in the following June the W. D. allotted an additional battalion of Inf. to P. R., which was completely organized by Mch., 1923.

**An Evidence of Porto Rico's Patriotism.** Thoroughly equipped and with a strength of 84 officers and 2,000 men, the N. G. is a just source of pride for Porto Rico; as evidence of Island patriotism it need only be mentioned that every unit is at authorized strength, while a number have waiting lists.

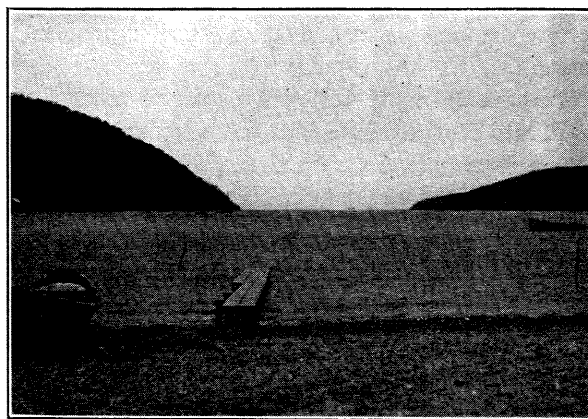
**During the World War.** Upon the entrance of America into the World War, the Legislature of Porto Rico in a spirit of patriotism, requested that the selective draft law be extended to the Island, and this was accomplished by Presidential proclamation in May. Pursuant thereto 236,853 men were registered for selection, of whom 17,855 were selected, and all of them except 139 duly reported for service. Camp Las Casas was established near Santurce by Lt. Col. Orval P. Townshend, then commanding the Porto Rican Reg. of Inf., who was subsequently relieved of command of the camp by Brig. Gen. Edward Crisman. Three

training camps were conducted in which, by July 20, a total of 706 officers were trained and commissioned. By the date of the Armistice the Inf. brigade at Camp Las Casas had attained a high degree of efficiency and was prepared for overseas service.

Meanwhile home guard units were organized in the various municipalities throughout the Island, consisting of men past the age for field service who volunteered for this duty. The force attained a strength of 1,500 men.

In accordance with the Act of June 4, 1920, Organized Reserve units were authorized for Porto Rico, and in Feb., 1922, the following were created by the W. D.: 1 Inf. Brigade; 1 additional Inf. Reg.; 1 F. Art. Reg.; 1 Reg. Engineers; 1 Mil. Police Co.; 1 Signal Co.; 1 Hospital Co.; 1 Ambulance Co.; 1 Motor Transport Co.; 1 Motor Repair Section. The Inf. units perpetuated the numerical designations which had become endeared to Porto Ricans through the Camp Las Casas service. By Mch., 1923, much progress had been made in the assignment to these organizations of Reserve officers and trained enlisted personnel resident in Porto Rico.

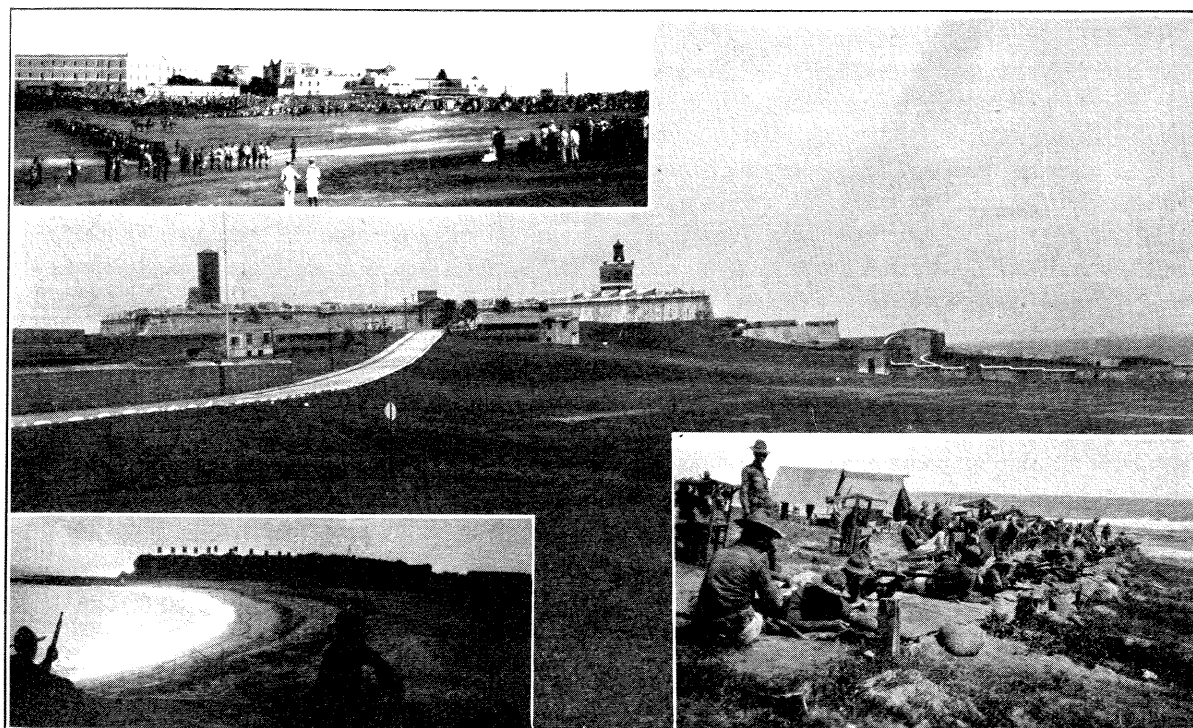
**A Mute Witness of Porto Rico's Might.** The first fortification on the Island was the Casa Blanca, a wooden structure which served as a residence for the descendants of Ponce de León. A more elaborate fortification, the Fortaleza, was constructed in 1535, and is now the Governor's Palace. The erection of El Morro



BAHÍA DE GUÁNICA.—PLACE OF LANDING OF FIRST AMERICAN TROOPS.

was begun in 1584; expanded so as to include a complete system of city walls, the construction was continued throughout nearly two centuries and was completed in 1777, the reign of

Philip IV (1621-1665) being the period when the full plan was formulated. Fort San Cristóbal was the citadel of the system; it stands today a mute witness of Porto Rican might.



CUARTEL DE BALLAJÁ, CAMPOS DEL MORRO Y ESCENAS MILITARES.  
INFANTRY BARRACKS, "EL MORRO" AND TARGET PRACTICE.

## Twenty-four Years under American Influence

By Martín Travieso, A.B., LL.B.,

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Twenty-four years ago, and by the use of just twenty-four words, Spain ceded to the United States the island of Porto Rico.

The Treaty of Peace concluded between the two belligerent nations, at the end of the Spanish American war, and signed at Paris on December 10th, 1898, provided: "Article 2nd. Spain cedes to the United States the Island of Porto Rico and other islands now under Spanish sovereignty in the West Indies."

From that moment the destinies of the beautiful island were changed; and Porto Rico, a

Spanish colony since its discovery by Columbus on November 16th, 1493, became "an insular possession" of the United States of America and was placed under the commercial, political and moral influence of the great republic of North America.

The author will not attempt to write a complete history of events nor to chronicle with full details the accomplishments of these twenty-four years of its life under American influence and leadership. The wide scope of this book and the limitation of space for this article compels us to write briefly.

**Material Development.** The material development of Porto Rico during these years is without a parallel and is also really amazing, when it is considered that all this wonderful progress has been accomplished upon a small island, the gross area of which, land and water and including the adjacent islands, is only 3,435 square miles!

When Porto Rico began its American life in 1899, the island was already congested by a population of 953,243. In the year 1910 this population had reached 1,118,012 and by 1920 it was about 1,300,000. The average number of persons to the square mile now being about 389, that is, about ten times as great as the average in the United States proper.

A few statistical figures, more eloquent than words, will show in a convincing way, the material development of Porto Rico:

	1899	1921	Increase
Assessed value off all property .....	\$96,430,994	\$286,461,673	\$190,030,679
Total volume of trade.....	17,502,103	217,735,002	200,232,899
Number of tons of sugar exported .....	68,909	409,022	340,113
Number of pounds of coffee exported .....	12,157,240	26,881,449	14,724,209
Number of pounds of leaf tobacco exported.....	4,344,659	14,624,294	10,279,635
Value of fruits exported .....	109,801	3,828,595	3,718,794
School enrollment .....	26,212	206,533	180,321
Expenditures for education .....	288,098	4,008,770	3,720,672
Number of kilometers of roads.....	275	1,300	1,025

**Important Problems Yet to be Solved.** The above figures fully corroborate the statement that Porto Rico's progress has been remarkable. But in spite of all this wonderful accomplishment of its people, under the leadership of their friends from the North, there are still some very important and unsolved problems, the solution of which is absolutely necessary to the island's complete prosperity and happiness. These problems are:

**Increase School Facilities.** To provide school facilities for every child of compulsory school age. Of the 209,787 children of such age only 138,983, or 66.2%, were enrolled. The enrollment ought to be made 100% and it certainly would be so now if the revenues of the island were sufficient to meet the additional expenditures.

**Open the American Market to Porto Rican Coffee.** Porto Rico's friends in the United States ought to help her to open the American market to its coffee. It is really a shame that of the 26,881,449 pounds of coffee exported by the island in 1921, only 211,966 were shipped

to the United States, where they had to be sold as a non-protected product, in competition with all the other lower grades of coffee. And, on the other hand, the coffee sold in the European markets had to enter those markets with all the burdens of the European tariffs, because the island's coffee is treated as an American product. The consequence of this lack of protection is the low price for this product, which in the writer's opinion is the one which contributes in a greater measure to the general welfare of the masses of Porto Rico's population; first, because the coffee lands are divided into small farms, and second, because these farms are owned mostly by natives of the island and the profits derived from the coffee crop remain in the island, instead of going out as dividends to increase the wealth of non-resident landholders.

**Improve the Standard of Living of the Working Class.** Porto Rico's people must by social welfare work, by legislation and by every possible form of human agency, improve the standard of living of the laboring classes, now depending mainly upon wages earned in the island's four industries, sugar, coffee, tobacco and fruit, which being closely connected with agriculture, provide work during only part of the year. The establishment in the island of new industries, such as paper mills, cotton gins, soap factories and others of that nature would contribute greatly to the uplifting of the wage-earners. The natives of Porto Rico are naturally intelligent and industrious and with a period of training would make excellent factory workers.

**An Act of Justice and Generosity.** So much for what the people of the island have done and for what they feel that they ought to do. The author will refrain from referring to anything that might be considered as "politics." But this article would be incomplete should he fail to refer here to the greatest

conquest made by the Porto Ricans since their island became an American territory.

#### AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

The Congress of the United States, after several years of debates and public hearings, came to the conclusion that the Porto Ricans were worthy of the honor of being admitted into the great family known as the American people, and by an Act of Congress, approved on March 2nd, 1917, and known as "The Jones Act," the citizens of Porto Rico were declared to be citizens of the United States.

The granting of citizenship to the Porto Ricans was an act of justice and generosity on the part of their brothers of the North. And soon after, these new citizens were submitted to the real test, as men and as citizens. Our nation declared war on Germany and immediately the Porto Ricans requested that the provisions of the Draft Law be made extensive to Porto Rico. And when the nation's call was sounded over the mountains and valleys of the little island, 121,241 registrants responded to the call and offered themselves to fight for, and to die for America and for the rights and liberties of mankind.

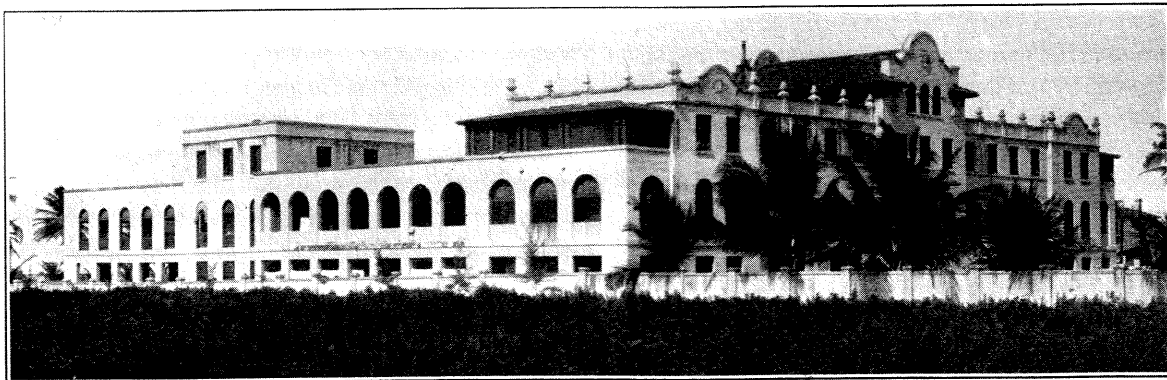
In his report for the year 1918, Governor Arthur Yager, reviewing in detail the war activities of the Porto Ricans, says: "In fine, Porto Rico is at work in supporting the National Government and helping to win the war in every way open to her people." Porto Ricans stood the test and they stand ready

to respond to the nation's call, to the fullness of their measure.

**Proud of American Citizenship.** Let Porto Rico's fellow citizens of the North know that Old Glory has been on the island for twenty-four years with the people's love and defended by soldiers and officers born in the little island; that the people of the island are proud of their American citizenship; that her public schools are training the children in accordance with the most modern systems of education and equipping them with a thorough knowledge of the two great languages of America, English and Spanish, thus enabling the island's young men to act as a connecting link between her fellow citizens of the North and her brothers in blood of the Latin-American republics; that the period of experimentation is over and that Porto Rico is no longer a dumping ground for worthless politicians and office-seekers; and that while she invites and welcomes helpful American cooperation and leadership, her people demand full recognition and respect for their rights as free citizens of our great republic.

**A Monument Erected by American Justice and Statesmanship.** The achievements of Porto Rico during these years under the Stars and Stripes are a clear demonstration of what a Latin-American community is capable of accomplishing under proper leadership.

Porto Rico, the advanced post of North America and the gateway to Latin America, stands to-day as a monument erected by American justice and statesmanship.



PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL, SAN JUAN.

**Historical Archive of Porto Rico**By **Ferdinand R. Cestero,**

Director of the Historical Archive of Porto Rico. Author. Ex-President of the Porto Rican Atheneum. Ex-Vice President of the Association of Writers and Artists. Merit Member of the Porto Rican Atheneum, and Honorary Member of the Atheneum of Mexico.

**Government Archives.** The natural disturbance brought about by the abrupt change of sovereignty in Porto Rico in 1898, as a result of the Spanish-American War, did not fail deeply to affect something of the greatest interest to the history of the system whose end that date marks—the government archives.

In great disorder on shelves in the cellars of different public buildings, where moths, worms, dampness, etc. destroyed the labor of centuries, the old papers were being gradually lost, until a voice raised in our legislature, and the Act was passed creating the institution whose name serves as a title to this article. All documents, duly classified and in order, are now preserved at the Historical Archive, this being especially true of documents of a political-historical nature, which otherwise would ere long have been entirely lost.

**Creation of Present Archive.** That the reader may form an exact idea of the nature of this institution, we give here, literally, Section 2 of the Act by virtue of which the archive was created:

“Section 2.—That this institution has for the object, and it shall be its duty, to keep, arrange, classify and catalog all documents belonging to the former Government and office of the Captain General of Porto Rico and other governmental organizations which in 1898, by reason of the change of sovereignty, were reorganized or abolished, as well as all documents of a historical and political nature of the abolished Territorial Audience Court, and such other documents of like nature appertaining to the time of the Spanish regime, as may be found in the municipalities of the Island, or in any other public archives, or which, being in the hands of private persons, may be acquired by the Government, either by donation or with funds of the Insular Treasury.”

It is to the Legislature, which approved this Act, and especially to the author thereof, Mr.

Mariano Abril, a distinguished writer who knows what a historical archive is and what it means to a people, to whom Porto Rico owes the creation of its archives.

**The Rolls.** In front of the Young Men's Christian Association building stands a building, which because of meeting the required damp and fire-proof conditions, was the place designated by law for the archive, which was installed there in November, 1919. From that date to the present time, 10,000 rolls of documents have been transferred to that building, 8000 of which belonged to the General Spanish Government, and 2000 to the abolished Audiencia Territorial (Supreme Court).

**Personnel and Work.** Of the aforesaid number of documents, and in spite of the scarce personnel of the archive, composed of one director, two assistants, one typewriter operator, and one porter-messenger, there have been studied to date over 3000 rolls each containing an average of 100 records, of which about 800 have deserved classification. Indices of these have been prepared in accordance with law and in the form of a catalogue, with details and notes, to inform the government and the public.

In the library of the archive, now being put in order, there exist numberless interesting books and pamphlets of other times.

**Collection of Daily Newspapers.** As it is unfortunately true that even in the offices of the major portion of the island's most important dailies, collections of the papers are not preserved duly bound, for the benefit of posterity, we believed it our duty, from the very time the archive was formed, to take up this difficult task, and thus, day after day, preserve material for the future history of Porto Rican journalism.

Notwithstanding the ignorance of the greater part of the public as to the existence of the archive, because of its recent creation, several certified copies of different documents pertain-

ing to classified matter have been issued for official and private use. This has been done to the entire satisfaction of the applicants who, thankful for the zeal displayed in serving them,

never fail to congratulate the force of the archive for their hard and tedious work. The Historical Archive of Porto Rico is open to the public, which is always welcomed.

**Just Figures**

**By Francis W. Hoadley,**

Co-Editor "El Libro de Puerto Rico."

While it is true that most of the facts and figures tabulated below are given in the articles of other writers in this book, still, as presented separately their accumulative force is not apparent—just as the tourists who, seeing but a fraction of the island's beauty and charm, and pronounces it "good" or "wonderful," has little idea of the cumulative appeal it makes on the visitor who has the good fortune to view all the many charms and experience all the many pleasures of "Uncle Sam's Spot in the Tropical Sun."

For over a year, day after day, it has been the good fortune of the writer of this article to meet a very large number of Porto Rico's inhabitants—those people who became citizens

of the United States at the very eve of the entrance of the Union into the Great World War—March 2nd, 1917, and never in all this time has any Porto Rican so much as hinted to him in a boasting way of the comparatively great service rendered by this comparatively small body of citizens of the United States, to their Nation and Humanity in the hour of need.

But as the writer worked over the torrent of articles on every subject which swept across his desk month after month, there came to him a feeling of admiration which constantly grew, until its cumulative effect made Porto Rico and her people nearer and dearer to him.

But enough of words, let us now—to use an expressive popular phrase—let figures talk.

**Some Basic Facts**

Area of Porto Rico, square miles.....	3,603	Ceded by Spain to U. S. A.....	Oct. 18th, 1898
Population in 1917 .....	1,223,981	Citizenship bestowed by U. S. A.....	March 2nd, 1917
Per capita wealth in 1917.....	\$149.33	Selective Draft became effective.....	May, 1917

**Some Enlightening Figures**

In the Selective Draft she registered her young men to the number of .....	236,856
From whom were selected in the first and only draft.....	17,855
Graduated in her Officers' Training Camp by July 20th, 1917 .....	706
Had the first regiment in the Nation at full war strength, and sent volunteer troops to guard the Panama Canal to the number of .....	650
To the First Liberty Loan bought bonds amounting to.....	\$ 600,000
" " Second " " " " " " .....	1,986,900
" " Third " " " " " " .....	2,783,050
" " Fourth " " " " " " .....	4,723,150
Total Subscribed to all four loans .....	\$10,093,100
Exceeded her quota for the four Liberty Loans by.....	\$ 800,000
One Porto Rico family bought Liberty Bonds to the total amount of .....	\$ 226,000
Her soldier boys at Camp "Las Casas" buying a total of .....	\$ 396,000
"The Little Village of the Dawn," Villalba subscribed in the Third Liberty Loan.....	\$ 12,000
A Porto Rican paid the highest sum of anyone in the entire Nation for two pounds of wool from the White House sheep, i.e.....	\$ 4,000
Gave for Red Cross Work, 2nd Drive only over.....	\$ 160,000
Forty-five men gave for Red Cross Headquarters.....	\$ 11,000
Furnished 12,000 "Comfort Kits" representing a value of.....	\$ 20,000
Forwarded Uncle Sam's Boys in France	
Jars of Guava Jelly .....	120,000
Packages of cigarettes .....	1,500,000
Gave in the United War Work campaign.....	\$ 140,000
Enlisted in Victory Boys movement more than.....	13,000
Number of School Gardens .....	1,395
Supervisors, teachers and pupils subscribed to Junior Red Cross .....	\$ 21,501