

## XVI

### ASSOCIATIONS FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS

ATHENEUM—MASONRY IN PORTO RICO—KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION—SPIRITUALISTS—SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION OF INSULAR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES—FEDERATION OF WORKERS OF PORTO RICO—FEDERATION OF LABOR—AMERICAN RED CROSS—JUNIOR RED CROSS—ROTARY.

#### **The Porto Rican Atheneum (El Ateneo Puertorriqueño)**

**Por Epifanio Fernández Vanga y Martínez,**

Attorney-at-Law. Ex-President of the Porto Rican Atheneum. Vice-President of the Plazuela Sugar Company.

**The Foundation.** On July 29, 1876, an institution devoted to the cultivation of letters, sciences and fine arts, to be supported by the private and voluntary efforts of its members, was officially established in the building at No. 28 on what was then Fortaleza Street—now Allen Street, San Juan, Porto Rico. From its very foundation the institution properly adopted the name of El Ateneo Puertorriqueño, and to-day it still bears the same name, though a change has been made therein to make the spelling conform to the habit of the people and to the custom of the majority of the best Porto Rican speakers and writers.

**The Founder and His Fellow-organizers.** It was Manuel de Elzaburu y Vizcarrondo, one of that group of notable Porto Ricans who, being slave owners, worked throughout the beginning of the third quarter of the last century for the abolition of slavery with or without compensation to the owners, who conceived the idea, and was almost the sole founder of this institution. Three months of constant and methodic labor, from April to June of the year 1876, sufficed him to carry out his high purpose in the then recent slave-owning colony.

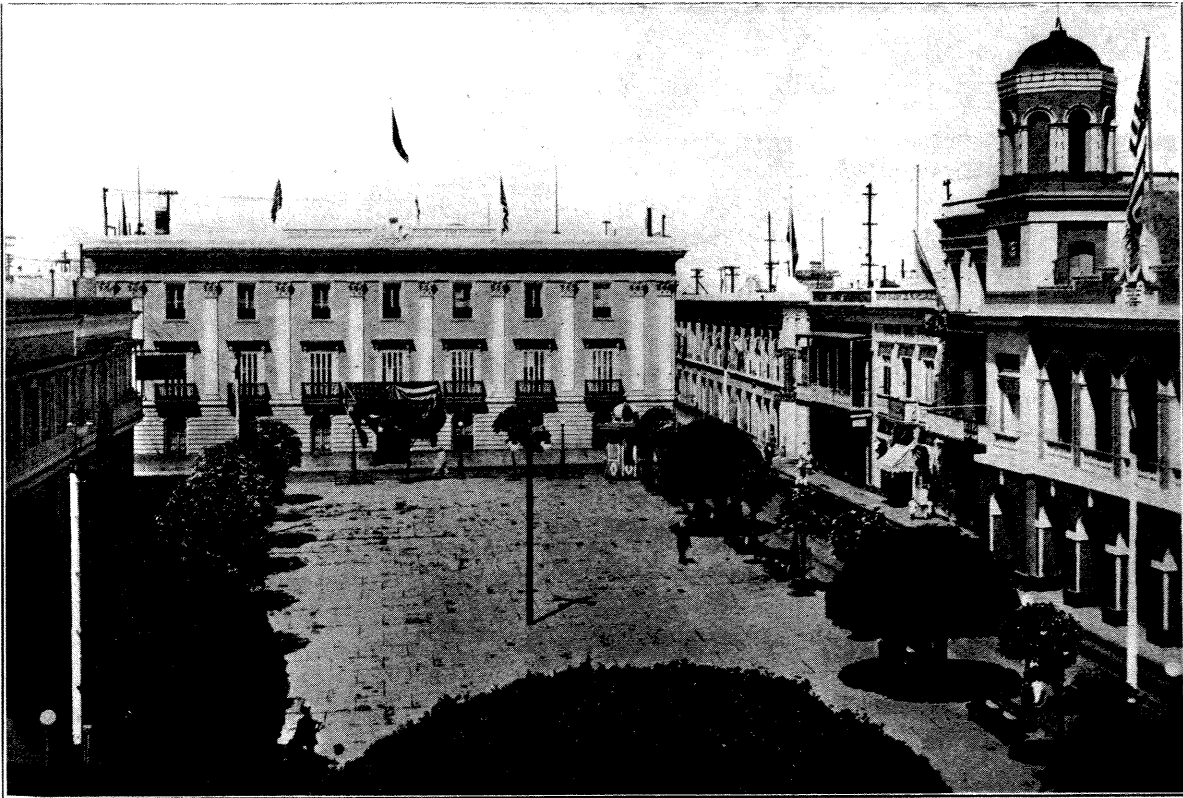
Beside his name, there should be written those of Francisco de Paula Acuña, the first President of the Atheneum, and at present (1923) one of the very few survivors out of the fifty-five gentlemen who founded that institution; Alejandro Tapia y Rivera, who

shortly afterwards died suddenly in the Atheneum itself while delivering a lecture, as stated in another article in this book; José Julián Acosta, afterwards president of the society just as Elzaburu and Tapia had been, Juan Z. Hernández and José Ramón Becerra, respectively secretary and treasurer, of the new organization, during the period of its first heroic struggles. All of these gentlemen were Elzaburu's most efficient and enthusiastic collaborators.

**Other Prominent Members.** All persons in Porto Rico who stood for disinterested progress and culture during the last years of the XIXth and the first years of the XXth centuries had either direct or indirect relations with the Atheneum. That is why in mentioning no Porto Ricans other than those who have passed away, we find among the Presidents of the Atheneum the names of Manuel Corchado, Fernando Núñez and Carlos María Soler; among the most notable of its directors, Salvador Brau, Tulio Larrinaga, Gabriel Ferrer, José Benedicto, Federico Degetau, Pedro G. Goyco, Fidel Guillermety, Wenceslao Lugo Viña, Laureano Vega, José Giegel y Terrón and Rosendo Matienzo Cintrón; and among those who in life in some way helped to give splendor to the institution and glory to it after death, we find José Gualberto Padilla, Pablo Morales Cabrera, Luis Muñoz Rivera, Manuel Padilla Dávila, Father Nazario, Martín J. Travieso, Rafael del Valle Rodríguez, José

de Jesús Esteves and Enrique C. Hernández. Another member of great prominence, not born in Porto Rico and fortunately still among us, is the already immortal Manuel Fernández Juncos, a man who has been the source of

**Purposes of the Atheneum.** One of the recent purposes of the Atheneum, a work that will be completed by future directors, is the search and re-search for famous paintings of Porto Rico's immortal Campeche, most of



PLAZA BALDORIOTY.—VIEW FROM THE BALCONY OF THE ATHENEUM.

many good things in the island. Even Porto Ricans who because they resided outside of San Juan or Porto Rico could not take direct participation in the life and development of the Atheneum, were brought within its sphere upon their deaths by the rendering of permanent homage to their memories, by their portraits being placed in the institution's organized gallery of Porto Rico's recognized celebrities. Among these, special mention is deserved by Eugenio María de Hostos, Román Baldorioty de Castro, Ramón Emeterio Betances, Segundo Ruiz Belvis, the great painter Francis Oller, the very notable musicians Felipe Gutiérrez, Manuel Tavárez and Juan Morrell Campos, and next to these last three, and because he died more recently, Gonzalo Núñez awaits his turn of being so honored.

which are scattered throughout the towns of the island while others are in foreign countries, especially in the neighboring islands of the West Indies. Another task whose final conclusion will some day cover present directors with glory is the construction of an adequate building to be owned by the Atheneum and to serve the organization as a permanent home. The first stone of this building, we might say, was laid by the present Historian of Porto Rico, Dr. Cayetano Coll y Toste, who on his first election to the presidency twelve years ago, decided to obtain, and did obtain, the grant of a public lot to the Atheneum. If not really the laying of the corner stone of the future building, it may be truly said that during the presidency of Dr. Coll y Toste the Atheneum laid the

foundation on which all of its stones will some day be assembled.

**Institution of Higher Education.** Prior to the beginning of the last decade of the past century and almost to the termination thereof, the Institution of Higher Education functioned as a dependency of the Atheneum. This was a semi-official school for university studies, the pupils of which were examined by professors coming to it purposely from the University of Havana. This school was created thanks to the insistent and intelligent efforts of Don Manuel de Elzaburu in San Juan and of Don Julio de Vizcarrondo in Madrid. It was in this school that Agustin Stahl taught botany; Jesús Maria Figueras, common law; José Celso Barbosa, anatomy; Juan Ramón Ramos, political economy; José de Jesús Tizal, physiology; Juan Hernández López, general history of the law; José A. Canals, mathematical analysis, and Gerónimo Carerras, personal hygiene. Among the faculty of the Institution of Higher Education there were others whose names are among those mentioned in previous paragraphs, and again others who if mentioned would make this list too long.

**Poetical Contests.** The honor of having initiated poetical contests in Porto Rico belongs to the Atheneum. The first was held twelve years after the foundation of the Society, the themes being the classical ones of Country, Love and Faith. The judges were appointed in Madrid under the presidency of Gaspar Núñez de Arce, the prizes having fallen respectively to Salvador Brau, José de Diego and Manuel Padilla Dávila. Ever since that spring of 1888, and apart from the literary and scientific contests often held prior to the poetical one mentioned, many are the festivals of the last named class which the Atheneum has organized, the one held three years after the change of sovereignty having been of unusual and merited importance.

**The Atheneum Platform.** From the platform of the Atheneum the greatest voices in Porto Rican eloquence have been heard. From Manuel Corchado to José de Diego all Porto Ricans who had a message to deliver based on practical experience or research

came within the only four walls in Porto Rico where worthy ideas were sure to find careful consideration and where a spirit of tolerance prevails towards all opinions, before going to the people to present their message to them. It was from this platform that the professor in legal science, Herminio Díaz Navarro, explained the constitutional and anti-constitutional phases that the political status of Porto Rico might take on in the course of time. And it was from this same platform that the giant of insular oratory, Rosendo Matienzo Cintrón, foretold coming events of the island's varied and conflicting political tendencies that have taken place during the last quarter of a century.

**A Beacon of Culture.** To summarize during the forty-six years of its fruitful existence the Atheneum has been a beacon from which culture has irradiated in all directions, what the French term a foyer of spirituality. The beacon has always been kept burning. Thanks to the liberal patronage of generous Benefactors it has been possible recently to enliven interest in scientific, artistic and literary contests, of which most interesting ones have been held in the very near past, bearing on social and even religious matters; and lectures, pamphlets, exhibitions, concerts, musical recitals and simple entertainments tending more to solace the spirit than to nourish it, have given continuous proof of a noble and lofty existence. These activities have been greatly furthered by a well-stocked library which has been constantly enriched by the acquisition of new volumes, specially of native production.

**Leading Figures.** One light of the first magnitude that was extinguished while his name and glory were as one with the glory and name of the Atheneum, was José de Diego, who died while president of the organization. Great was the number of persons who seemed to realize the bereavement of the classical home of the island's traditions because of his death, and who earnestly prepared to aid and support it. They seemed to realize that it was necessary to make up for the loss in quality by substituting quantity, and the number of members which in 1918 was not



GRANJA MASÓNICA, BAYAMÓN.—MASONIC REST HOME.

## Masonry in Porto Rico

By José G. Torres, LL.B.,

Literary man. Grand Secretary of the "Sovereign Grand Lodge of Porto Rico."  
 Manager of the Masonic Bank. Director of the review "El Universo." Vice-  
 President of the Unionist Party.

**First Lodges:** Free Masonry in Porto Rico dates from the first years of the nineteenth century.

Although, due to the persecution of Masons in Spain and her colonies, it has been impossible to preserve here the archives of this institution. Dr. Cayetano Coll y Toste, the Historian, asserts that "Ramo de Oro de Eleusis," by J. E. Marconis, page 41, says that in 1805 a masonic Grand Lodge was in operation in Porto Rico, the Grand Master being M. W. M. C. Honis.

We have no data to prove this assertion, but it is very possible that at about that time masonic lodges were in operation in this island. For it is beyond all doubt, since we hold a document proving it, that on April 10, 1824, a charter was granted to a Rosa Cruz Chapter called Minerva, located in San Germán, said charter having been granted to Bros.: Antonio de Jesús Blanco, Isi-

doro de Avila, Pascasio de Cardona, Juan Francisco Mahens, Luis L. Acosta, José de Rexren and Augusto Arrivante.

The western coast of Porto Rico, including the towns of Mayaguez, Añasco, Cabo Rojo, Sábana Grande and San Germán, seems to have been the initial focus of Free Masonry here. In the possession of ex-Grand Master Rafael Arrillaga who died recently in Añasco, we have seen the seal used by the Yaguez Lodge. According to Brother Arrillaga, this, one of the first lodges organized in Porto Rico, was organized at a place midway between Añasco and Mayaguez, its Secretary having been Juan Miguel Sagardia.

Another lodge existed many years ago in San Germán, called Unión Germana Lodge. In it, auspiced by the Grand National Orient of San Domingo, our great patriot, Ramón Emeterio Betances, was initiated. His mortal remains,

brought from the Pere Lachaise Cemetery, Paris, now rest in Cabo Rojo, his native town, and a handsome masonic temple has been erected there in his memory, called Cuna de Betances (Cradle of Betances).

**Lodges Patronized by the Venezuela, Santo Domingo, Spain and Cuba Orients:** One year prior to the date on which, according to Mr. Marconis, masonic lodges existed in Porto Rico, the first lodge was founded in Cuba (1804) under the name of "Le Temple des Vertus Theologales," dependent on Pennsylvania.

Cuba, Venezuela and San Domingo, together with the United States of America, and certain Brothers from neighboring French and English antilles, sowed the first seeds of Free Masonry in Porto Rico. The last named chose the east coast of the island as their field of endeavor, Humacao and Arroyo having been the first towns to receive from them the fruits of Free Masonry.

Persecution in Cuba as well as in Porto Rico caused the disappearance here and there of the first lodges, and it was not until 1858 or 1859 that Cuba was reborn to masonic life, upon the organization of the Colón Grand Symbolic Lodge, which immediately started to organize lodges in Porto Rico. Of such lodges the only one still existing after innumerable changes and vicissitudes, is the Estrella de Luquillo Lodge whose letters patent date from 1867.

Prior to this lodge, one called Borinquen Lodge existed in Porto Rico, having been established by the Grand National Orient of the Republic of Venezuela, with a charter dated August 23, 1863.

Not until 1861 did any lodges appear in Porto Rico under the auspices of the Spanish Grand Orients. One of the lodges established in Ponce was the Aurora Lodge. No sooner was our Sovereign Grand Lodge organized than the Aurora Lodge came under our jurisdiction.

All the lodges auspiced by the Orients of Venezuela, San Domingo and Spain, disappeared, only those organized by the Colón Grand Lodge of Cuba subsisting. This Grand Lodge remained legally to occupy the territory of Porto Rico where it organized a Provincial Grand Lodge in 1884, having later ceded the territory to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Porto Rico, established September 20, 1885.

**Sovereign Grand Lodge of Porto Rico:** Santiago R. Palmer was the soul of this masonic movement. He negotiated the creation of the Provincial Grand Lodge; obtained the cession of the territory, and was the first Grand Master of our Sovereign Grand Lodge, the seat of which was established in Mayaguez.

Beside this star of the first magnitude, figure Antonio Aramburu, a Viscayan of advanced ideas, whose Spanish lineage was insufficient to deliver him from persecution by the governments of that time; Antonio Ruiz Quiñones, for many years Grande Secretary, and who furthered the masonic press in the island; Carlos J. Monagas, an enthusiastic and persevering mason; Bernardo Escalona, Grand Master from 1890 to 1893; Rafael Arrillaga, also Grand Master from 1894 to 1896, and other distinguished Brothers.

Mario Braschi, an aggressive newspaper man, and Aristides Simonpriet, author of several masonic works, shone in Ponce.

In San Germán, Francisco Mariano Quiñones upheld the banner. He died at a very old age, still clinging to the ideal. And in Cabo Rojo, Loreto J. Montalvo, who died recently at the age of eighty years, always stood in his place of honor.

**Masons Persecuted:** Towards the month of April, 1874, several Brothers were taken by surprise during an initiation in the home of Carmelo Balzac, in San Germán, among them being the three brothers Angel, Juan and Manuel Antongiorgi, Francisco Maria Quiñones, Exio Fabián, Antonio Lebrón, Angel Franco, Manuel Rodriguez Soto and others. The Civil Guard arrested them, and on April 10, 1875, they were sentenced by the Judge of San Germán some to two and others to four years' imprisonment.

Dr. Julio Audinot de Coto and Ramón Nadal Cuebas, an attorney-at-law, started an energetic campaign, their allegations having been published by "Le Courrier de l'Europe," Paris. This campaign found echo in England, and the English masons got Lord Beaconsfield to use his influence in Spain. The Porto Rican masons above mentioned were pardoned through his efforts after having served eighteen months in prison, one of them, Brother Juan Antongiorgi, having died prior to the pardon.

On June 28, 1884, a masonic banquet was interrupted in Mayaguez by the police. On Octo-

ber 17, 1886, Brother Santiago R. Palmer and others were prosecuted for holding a meeting, while on November 30th of the previous year several masons of Fajardo were prosecuted for a like cause. Among the latter was Rosendo

been declared until said Grand Lodge was re-established in San Juan under the Grand Mastership of Santiago R. Palmer, on April 2, 1899.

**Grand Masters:** Henceforth Free Masonry in Porto Rico has advanced from one victory to



DELEGADOS AL CONGRESO MASÓNICO, VISITANDO LA ESCUELA LINCOLN DE CAGUAS.  
DELEGATES TO THE MASONIC CONGRESS VISITING A SCHOOL.

Matienzo Cintrón, a distinguished barrister and statesman, who was the second Grand Master of our Sovereign Grand Lodge in 1889. Having been sentenced to prison they appealed to the Real Audiencia (Supreme Court), where they were acquitted, this being the first declaration of the legality of the masonic institution in Porto Rico.

**The Law of Associations Issued:** The political events of 1887 took Santiago R. Palmer and other outstanding figures of Porto Rico to Morro Castle, but the following year a law of associations was promulgated, which although restrictive, allowed the establishment of masonic lodges under shadow of legality.

Free Masonry continued to flourish until the Cuban War of 1895 provoked vigilance of the lodges in our country. The greater part of them had to be closed, and even the meetings of the Grand Lodge were suspended, a recess having

another, thanks to the liberty it has enjoyed, permitting it to extend its sphere of action and to make its beneficent influence felt everywhere.

After Palmer's second term as Grand Master, he was succeeded by Carlos B. Meltz who died soon afterwards, José Francisco Díaz, Deputy Grand Master, continuing the work. The latter was succeeded by José Ramos de Anaya who worked enthusiastically for ten years, having also held the delegation of the Colón Supreme Council, and having founded several high masonic organizations. Armando Morales who afterwards carried on the work for a year prevailed upon Palmer to accept a new election in 1906.

Palmer died suddenly forty-eight hours after having taken his Grand Master's oath for the eighth time, and his funeral was a general demonstration of sorrow wherein masons and non-masons from all over the island took part, ceremonies having been held after the masonic rituals.

The Deputy Grand Master, Antonio Cordero, one of the oldest and most enthusiastic masons, then took charge of the Grand Mastership. He was twice re-elected, and during his three terms the number of lodges was considerably increased, as well as relations with foreign masonic powers. The Grand Lodge's treasury commenced to prosper, and a lot was purchased whereupon to build the masonic temple of San Juan.

Cordero was succeeded by Dr. William F. Lippitt who was re-elected eleven times, Porto Rican masonry having attained its greatest splendor in that time. With the aid of other valuable members, Brother Lippitt built the masonic temple which was later sold because of unsuitable location, a handsome three story building having been purchased, where eight symbolic lodges, one Kadosh Council and one Consistory work, as well as two chapters of the Eastern Star.

Brother Luís Muñoz Morales was recently elected Grand Master. He is working actively to bring about the masonic congress decided upon by our Grand Lodge with the co-operation of the Grand Lodges of Cuba, San Domingo and Venezuela.

**Institutions Maintained:** A masonic home for the shelter and education of the orphans of masons; the "School Shoe" which distributes shoes among the children of the poor; Masonic

insurance to aid the families of deceased masons; a masonic bank organized with the capital of masons, though its benefits are extended to others; a print shop organized on the share plan by lodges and brother masons. The Unión y Amparo Lodge of Cayey maintains an asylum for the poor. Various lodges are in charge of school dining-rooms where lunch is served to needy children.

**Statistics:** Fifty-four symbolic lodges are at present working in Porto Rico, of which eight are in San Juan; two in Mayaguez; two in Cayey, and one each in other towns of the Island.

Besides the masonic temple of San Juan there are thirty-three others owned by the lodges, some of them being of great importance, such as those of Caguas and Ponce.

There are also in the Island ten lodges of perfection; ten Rosa Cruz Chapters; five Kadosh Councils, and one Consistory, all working under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Council of the Southern United States, the present delegate of the Council here being Brother William F. Lippitt.

Ten Eastern Star Chapters are in operation, the Grand Matron being Mrs. Marcolina Fernández Nater, and the Grand Patron Brother Pedro del Valle Atilas, who have given great impulse to this institution.

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## The Knights of Columbus

By Eduardo Larroca, A.B.,

State Deputy, National Council of the Order. Editor of the Economic Review "El Comercio."

The Knights of Columbus is a benevolent and brotherly association organized by virtue of a charter issued March 28th, 1882 by the General Assembly of the state of Connecticut, U. S. A., in accordance with the laws of the order; its branches having been extended throughout all the states of the union, and also throughout Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Hawaii Islands and Philippine Islands.

**Foundation and Canons.** In writing this article in Porto Rico, the author should refer to its life in that Island, but as the time since its inauguration there—but eleven years—is so short, it is still in its first years of develop-

ment, and these being naturally the most difficult ones, the Porto Rican chapter does not as yet have what can be rightfully called a history. Hence in this article the author will simply give a brief sketch of the actual condition of the order in the Island, afterwards giving the general principles as embodied in its constitution, and its activities, from general headquarters in New Haven, Connecticut, U. S. A.

The Order is made up of men, who are practical Catholics, this being requisite to membership, and was established in the Island, January 11th, 1911, due to the efforts of the





ALCALDÍA MUNICIPAL DE SALINAS.  
THE CITY HALL OF ONE OF THE STRONGEST CATHOLIC TOWNS OF THE ISLAND.

Bishop of Porto Rico, Monseñor William A. Jones, whose loss will never cease to be regretted by his people.

From the Council of the order established at San Juan came the ten other councils existing in the Island, those of Ponce, Mayaguez, Arecibo, Caguas and Yabucoa, and from there those of Quebradillas, San Sebastián, Utuado and Fajardo, so that now the total strength of the Order in the Island is 1,200 members.

In 1916 the territory of Porto Rico was established by the Order, and the Hon. Martín Travieso, who has been acting Governor of the Island, and who is now Commissioner of Public Service of San Juan, was made Territorial Deputy of the order. Later, when in 1918, the Council of the State was constituted as the body at the head of the Order in the Island, Ex-Senator Ramón Valdés, of the Porto Rico Legislature, was elected State Deputy, the title given to the head of the Order in each state of the Union, who is also a member of the National Supreme Council.

Up to the present date the benevolent, charitable and educational work of the Order in

Porto Rico has been more intensive than extensive, but such work has been good preparation for the future, and its natural advantages will be appreciated to a greater extent in the near future.

**Aims and Principles.** Among the aims of the Order, the chief one is to strive to develop love of the virtue of true economy, especially among young men, encouraging them to practice it in favor of their families in case of death, and elevating this virtue to a duty.

**Mutual Insurance Feature.** To aid in this feature the Order has established for its members a system of life insurance on a non-profit earning basis, and with smaller premium rates than any other insurance company. Up to the present time more than \$14,000,000 has been paid to beneficiaries of the members who have died holding insurance issued by the Order.

Charity, Union, Fraternity and Patriotism are in fact the foundation stones on which the Order is built.

**Charity.** The practice of collective charity realizes the accomplishment of work that individual charity can not hope to attain, and the



Order develops a special training among its members in true scientific charity which has enabled them to accomplish wonderful work, much of it of a private nature, and much of it unknown.

**Union.** The union of the catholic faith gives added strength and assures unity of thought and action, and joins the members in a common plan of devotion to God, Country and Church, and develops in them devotion to the protection of the interests of the Church and of Catholics, making unnecessary the taking of any oath obnoxious to a true man.

**Fraternity.** Fraternity as preached and demonstrated by the Order, develops the personal practice of mutual assistance, and intensifies the duty of man to man, in virtue of which each one gives the help which he himself desires.

**Patriotism.** To the Knights of Columbus patriotism means loyalty to all that is legally constituted, that being the moral principle and duty of conscience of every catholic man or woman, since they recognize that all power justly constituted emanates from God.

**A Brilliant World War Record.** Supported, as the Order is, on these four strong and vigorous principles, it is always a permanent public force that can do nought but figure in the vanguard, as it has so often demonstrated in the past, in times of national or universal importance.

Naturally therefore the page of its history in the great world war, is one of glorious achievement in which it was always to be found among the leaders in rendering assistance to the soldier and sailor whenever and wherever it was needed.

First its members raised \$1,000,000 and later the Knights of Columbus collected \$30,000,000 in the campaign of united war work, and helped to wipe away the tears of combatants, and to carry comfort and necessary help to those separated from family and love of kindred or friends.

**Praised by the Governments of the World.**

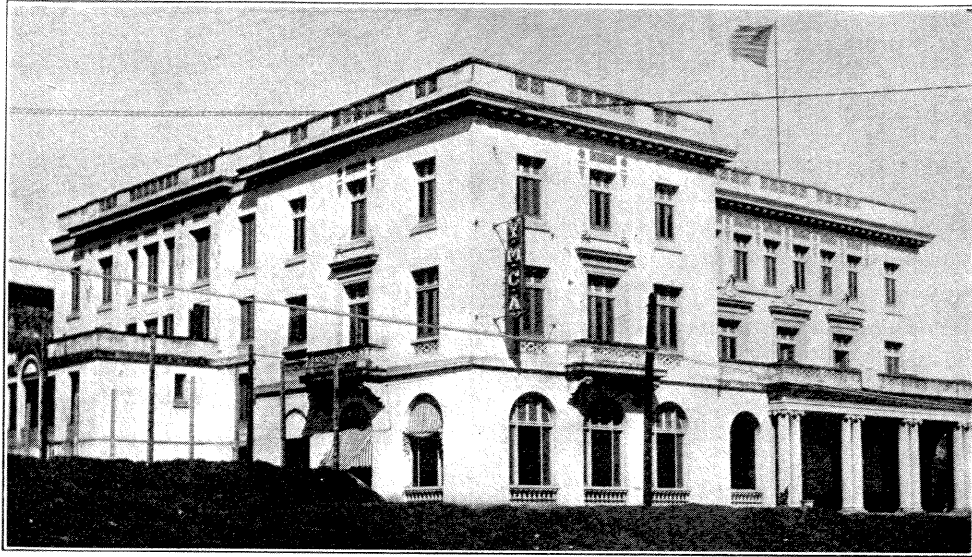
At the close of the great war, President Wilson, Army and Navy officers, and all returning soldiers rendered just praise to the Order for its efficient and practical work, in which they were joined by all the Rulers of the Allied Nations, and especially the Roman Pope, while later this praise was added to by President Harding.

**The First American Soldier to Give His Life "Over There" a Catholic.** A glorious fact for the Knights of Columbus is that the first American to give his life for his country and humanity upon the foreign battlefields of the great war, was a member of the Order.

**Golden Pages in the Order's History.** The chapter added to the Order's History which describes the services rendered by the Knights of Columbus in the world war, is a golden one in the reading of which all hearts will be touched deeply, and which will bring tears to the reader's eyes—tears which will water and keep unwithered the laurel crown gained by the Order beside the combatants during the war.

**Educational Work.** Another glorious chapter is that which describes the educational work done by the Order. Intensive labor, too comprehensive to fully enumerate in detail here, but the foundation principle of which is the conservation of American institutions, ideals and sentiments and thus tending to Americanization in the highest meaning of that word.

**Credentials of the Knights of Columbus.** The eight hundred thousand members of the Knights of Columbus, having a common ideal, sustained by perfectly defined principles of belief in God and the substance of the Catholic faith, thus become a guarantee for the greater happiness of whatever country they are located in, and by means of their belief in God and religion are enabled to increase their love of country, which fact forms the credentials of the Knights of Columbus Order.



MAGNÍFICO EDIFICIO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN DE JÓVENES CRISTIANOS.  
A \$185,000 MONUMENT TO SERVICE.

## The Young Men's Christian Association

By William G. Coxhead, B.A.,

General Secretary, Young Men's Christian Association, San Juan.

**First Steps Taken:** The movement to start the present Young Men's Christian Association in San Juan was begun by Mr. George F. Tibbitts, an Association Secretary from the United States, in June, 1900, by the organization of a temporary committee composed of Messrs. David A. Skinner, Acting Executive Secretary of Porto Rico; Martín Travieso, Jr., member of the Executive Council, Emilio del Toro Cuebas, Judge of the Supreme Court; Ramón Siaca Pacheco, Assistant Executive Secretary of Porto Rico, and H. E. Shaffer, General Manager Porto Rican Express Co.

During the month of January, 1910, a campaign was carried through in San Juan with the object of raising \$50,000 for an association building. \$51,099.00 was subscribed.

The first Board of Directors of the Association was organized, February 7, 1910.

**Aims of the Association:** The object of the Association, as stated in its Articles of Incorporation, is the improvement of the spiritual, mental, social and physical condition of young men and boys, and the Association carries on the four-fold program of activities of the North America Young Men's Christian Associations—gymnasium

classes for different groups of men and boys, recreative games and sports, evening educational classes, social, moral, religious lectures and Bible classes.

**Building and Equipment:** On September 3, 1910, the Legislative Assembly of Porto Rico approved a law authorizing the Commissioner of the Interior to transfer to the Association for a nominal amount the splendid site on which the building stands, comprising six thousand square meters.

The corner-stone of the building was laid on New Year's Day, 1912, and the building was opened to the public and dedicated Sunday, June 1, 1913.

The cost of the building was \$107,466.81. The furnishings cost about fifteen thousand dollars additional. Including the site, the property valued at \$185,000.00, is entirely free of debt.

The building contains spacious social rooms for both men and boys, in which are to be found magazines and papers, billiards and other games, piano, phonographs, correspondence tables, etc. Here the Association on occasion exhibits motion pictures with its own machine. Above the ground-floor are the extensive locker rooms, shower



"LA ASOCIACIÓN PERSIGUE EL ADELANTO ESPIRITUAL, MORAL Y FÍSICO DE LA JUVENTUD."  
SOCIAL AND ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES OF THE Y. M. C. A.

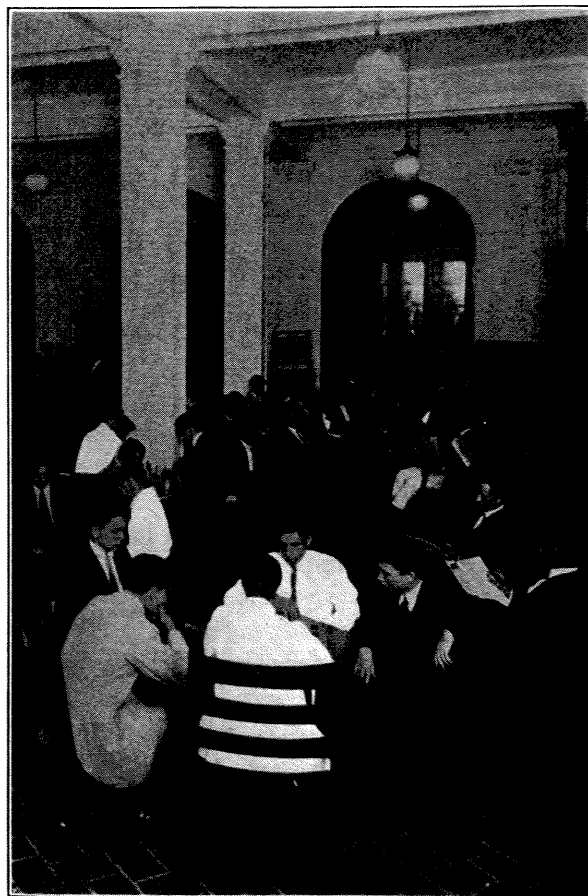
bath, swimming pool, in which only filtered water is used, two four-wall hand ball courts, the large and airy gymnasium, numerous school rooms, and twenty-three living rooms, which are rented to members. Outside, the building, the Association has a fine tennis court with electric installation for playing by night, as well as by day.

**Membership and Budget:** For several years past the Association has maintained an average membership of between five and six hundred members. The budget of the Association amounts to from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars annually, all of which is provided by membership and class fees, room rents, and by contributions of the business community of San Juan. The salary of the general secretary is paid by the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations.

**Present Board of Directors:** The present Board of Directors is composed of the following well-known citizens: President, Louis Sánchez Morales; Vice-President, F. B. Hatch; Recording Secretary, N. P. Nichols; Treasurer, F. C. Holmes; Emilio del Toro Cuebas, Dr. Pedro del Valle Atilas; Juan de Guzmán Benítez, Martín Travieso, F. G. I. Waymouth, Miguel Morales, Dr. José Gómez Brioso, Dr. Oliver L. Fassig, Félix Córdova Dávila, Dr. Juan B. Soto, Juan B. Huyke, Manuel V. Domenech, Manuel Martínez Casanova, Herbert W. Brown, L. Hernández Usera, Dr. José Marcial Dorado, and Charles E. Lawton.

**Service to the Public:** The Association extends its cordial invitation to visitors to inspect the building and its work, and to make use of its privileges. Advice and suggestions are given re-

garding employment on request. A register of rooms and boarding houses is on file in the office. Soldiers and sailors are cordially welcome. The Association is glad to be of service to anyone, in whatever ways it may.



SALÓN DE LECTURA Y RECREO.  
A QUIET HOUR IN THE RECREATION HALL.

## Development of Spiritualism : Federation of Spiritualists

By Francisco Ponte Jiménez, D.D.S.,

Ex-President of the Municipal Council of San Juan. President of the Federation of Spiritualists of Porto Rico. Honorary President of the Federation of Spiritualists of Cuba.

Spiritualism, just as all other great ideas that have influenced the world, had just as simple and humble an origin in Porto Rico as elsewhere, and has evolved not only in the moral and philosophical aspect of the doctrine, but also in its scientific and experimental aspect.

By 1873, Dr. Manuel Corchado, a great Porto Rican orator who was a spiritualist, gave in Spain a notable demonstration of the progress of spiritualism in Porto Rico, under the moral and philosophic aspect, by introducing in the Spanish Congress during the famous Constituent Assembly, a bill for an Act to amend the system of secondary education in Spain by including therein the study of spiritualism according to an interesting and scientific program drafted for the purpose.

As to the experimental aspect it may be said that in this island spiritualism has evolved from its primitive and rudimentary manifestations to the most complex and surprising demonstrations of the materialization of the spirit.

**Experimental Work.** The author of this sketch has carried out, in his psychic laboratory, numerous psychological experiments of different classes, the work having covered a period of ten years, and has recently submitted a history of his personal experiences to the consideration of the President of "The American Society for Psychical Research," Dr. Walter Prince, of New York. It is very probable that said institution will send to Porto Rico a committee to observe the phenomena and later submit an official report to the other societies for psychical studies throughout the world.

**Materializations.** That an idea of these psychological experiments may be gained, in this sketch we show an illustration of a wax glove formed over the materialized hand of the spirit directing our work.

At the commencement of the session the medium took a seat in the center of a dark-room, and then fell into the magnetic sleep provoked by the guiding spirit.

At each side of the curtain separating the dark-room from the one occupied by the audience, the latter lighted by a red lamp permitting the observation of phenomena without affecting them, was placed a pail of melted paraffine and on the other side one of cold water. After the materialization of the hand by virtue of the material elements drawn from the medium's body (ectoplasm) combining her psychical and nerve fluids with those of the operating spirit the glove begins the process of forming. This being done by introducing the materialized hand in the paraffine first and then in the cold water, the operation being repeated as often as it is necessary to give the glove the desired consistency.

Then the form serving as a model was momentarily dematerialized in order to leave the glove, then materialized again to throw it outside the curtain into the lap of one of the observers, or into the pail of cold water as sometimes happens.

The glove having been examined it showed no cracks or breaks or even any mark of violence or alteration of any kind. This proves that the model must have been materialized. Lastly, the glove was filled with plaster, a perfect model of the hand of the spirit having thus been obtained.

**Direct Writing.** Another of the phenomena worthy of mention is the one called "direct writing." Blank paper and a pencil are placed in a closed and duly sealed box which is then taken to the dark-room and placed somewhere unknown to the medium who is already in the magnetic sleep.

The noise of the pencil on the paper is soon heard, the box is opened and writing appears

on the paper. On occasions such writing is autographed exactly as the spirit signed in earthly life.

We once obtained a paper bearing writing in four different languages three of which were absolutely unknown to the medium.

**Portraits.** This is another of the most curious phenomena. For a period of four months only one of the communicants from beyond the grave favored me with pictures automatically drawn through the medium who knew nothing of drawing. These pictures were drawn in from forty to ninety seconds each. We have kept over one hundred of them, many being of unknown persons, but others of persons we have been able to recognize and of perfect likeness.

**Federation of Spiritualists.** The great example of civic courage set by Dr. Corchado in Spain gave extraordinary impulse to the development of the spiritualist seed which had already been sown in the island at that time.

Subsequently, the idea of association germinated in the conscience of adepts, and a review called "Iris de Paz," edited by Mrs. Agustina Guffain de Doitteau, spread the idea of organizing the Federation of Spiritualists, which idea was accepted with great interest by a group of enthusiasts. The institution was organized April 19, 1903, in the city of Mayagüez.

From that very moment spiritualism opened its way in Porto Rico according to the ideas of Allan Kardec, which constitute the philosophical basis of the Federation. Efficient propaganda was carried out by those entrusted with directing spiritualist opinion, and soon the spiritualist doctrine recompiled in France by the distinguished thinker and philosopher, Hipólito León, Denizart Rivail, generally known as Allan Kardec, marched in triumph throughout the island.

The Federation has been holding yearly conventions ever since 1903, which have been veritable examples of fraternity and education to the collective conscience.

With the change of government in the island, the separation of Church and State and the institution of the American Constitution which secures free thought and speech, the diffusion of spiritualistic ideas were favored. All these favorable circumstances have allowed the Federation to carry out in the island an intensive campaign in the exposition of doctrine, and to move with vigorous and permanent life to the point where it counts on over 150 incorporated societies.

**Preachers of Spiritualism.** In dealing with the history of spiritualism in Porto Rico it would be an unpardonable sin not to mention at least a few of our first brothers in the faith, of our apostles, of those men of great civic and moral courage who preceded us in the practice and diffusion of these ideas throughout the country, and whose perseverance and firmness of conviction prepared the way for those of us who toil to-day under better circumstances.

Hence, we can do no less than to pay here that tribute of admiration and sympathy due to such fighters as Salomón Alvarez Domenech, founder of the first spiritualist paper in the island; Francisco Aparicio Meléndez, newspaperman; Rodolfo Espinosa, a philanthropic artisan who founded a modest hospital in Mayagüez, which he supported by means of minimum dues; Carlos Doitteau, Emeterio Bacon, Pedro Colberg, Luis Montalvo Guenard, the distinguished Matienzo Cintrón and Federico Degetau González, all of whom have disappeared from the earth, and to those others who still carry on with us the struggle for the ideal, to all of whom history will do proper justice.

## Savings and Loan Fund Association of the Employees of the Insular Government of Porto Rico

By Ramón Lebrón Rodríguez,

Chief of Statistics of the Department of Health. Ex-Assistant Chief of the  
Bureau of Labor.

This association is a cooperative organization under the auspices of the government. Its purposes are to promote saving, to lend money to its members, and to insure them in case of loss of life or disability.

The law provides for a discount of 3 per cent. from the monthly salary of each member, to be covered into the savings fund. Out of this fund loans amounting to one month's salary are made to employees without security other than the signature of the head of the department or office and of the chief of the bureau where the applicant is employed. Loans are also made to the maximum sum of five hundred dollars, secured by two solvent signatures, at a rate of six per cent interest a year. In the discretion of the Board loans may also be made on first mortgage.

When a member dies or is disabled, an assessment of fifty cents is deducted from the salary of each member, and from the total sum so raised, ten per cent is deducted for a reserve fund which is devoted to the repayment of fifty per cent of the amount paid on account of insurance, and the balance is delivered to the deceased employee's family, or to the employee himself in case of disability.

**Organization and Work.** The association is managed by a Board of Directors composed of eight members appointed by the respective heads of the six departments, one by the Auditor and another by the Executive Secretary. The directors are designated yearly.

During the first year of its existence the association collected the sum of \$49,900.00, and

made loans to members amounting to almost \$100,000.00. Nine deaths occurred during the same year, while three members were declared disabled, all of whom were duly cared for and paid the amount of their insurance. The association has 1,810 members at present.

**Program under Study.** As a program for the second year there is under study a project for the construction of thirty dwelling-houses to be sold to members on long-term payments and moderate interest. This will be the fundamental beginning of a cooperative building association which will offer innumerable advantages to employees and will at the same time serve to increase the number of residences in the municipality of San Juan, thus aiding to putting an end to the congestion in which many of the inhabitants of the city live.

So far as we know there is no organization of a kind similar to this anywhere else in America.

The Board of Directors has prepared a bill for an Act for the pensioning of employees who have served the government for twelve years, and on a progressive scale up to twenty-five years, and who reach the age of fifty-five. Also to pension those who become disabled in the performance of their duty.

The future of the public employees of Porto Rico can not be more hopeful. They are the supporters of the credit of the administration, to which they give their energy, knowledge and enthusiasm, and therefore they are entitled to be heard, respected and fairly compensated by the government.





## Free Federation of the Workers of Porto Rico

By Prudencio Rivera Martínez,

Cigarmaker. Member of the Workmen's Relief Commission. Organizer of the International Union of Cigarmakers of America. Member of several Labor Associations.

In Porto Rico there is no organization or group of persons who can offer the world a more brilliant history than that of the Free Federation of the Workers of Porto Rico, nor has any other organization been compelled to make greater sacrifices. This organization has had to contend in a gallant manner the opposition and hostility of the capitalists on the one side, and on the other the great ignorance of the labor masses in the island. The Free Federation of the Workers of Porto Rico came into existence on the 14th of July, 1899, that is to say on the 110th anniversary of the "Seizing of the Bastille." Since that memorable date on which it was inaugurated the fight has never been let up either in the economic, social or political fields nor is it possible that it will cease until the injustice and inequality of the present social system has entirely disappeared.

**Forerunners of the Workers' Movements.** A small group of men led by Santiago Iglesias, while he was earning his living as a carpenter, had the courage to break thru the thick wall of our ignorance, and to them the Porto Rican workers owe entirely the recognition of their worth.

**Incorporation to the American Labor Movement.** This organization did not wait for the Military Government to pass away in order to incorporate it to the Great American Federation of Workers, which during more than thirty years has been presided over by Samuel Gompers, nor did it wait any longer to make its influence felt in all the official centers of the island and in all public activities, expressing its aspirations and rightful ambitions for happiness and hope. Porto Rican workmen once organized, began to understand the new teaching of equality and succeeded in awakening their conscience as the new leaders made them understand that all men are born equal and that all have equal rights for the pursuit of happi-

ness and wealth; and they entered into the conquest for all the rights that had been denied during four centuries.

**Workers' Activities Begin to Show.** The transformation which occurred in Porto Rican laborers was so rapid and astounding, that it would be difficult to find another land of Latin American origin in which, in such a short period, the social reforms that have been implanted in Porto Rico in such a short time, could have taken place.

The Porto Rican working class knew almost intuitively from the commencement of the local labor struggle, that their only hope was based in the international organization of labor, that the only labor organization of Porto Rico which showed responsibility, guarantee, circumspection and firm ideals of struggle and progress for all its activities, was the Free Federation with the aid of that great force of international solidarity represented by the four million workers affiliated with the "American Federation of Labor."

In opposition to these ideals of internationalization and in order to bring about divisions in the ranks of the workmen, so as to serve purely political motives, various attempts of rival federations have been tried out, but none of such efforts has succeeded.

**The Most Complete Organization.** As far as labor is concerned, Porto Rico never had a more complete organization nor one inspired with better purposes than the Free Federation. Embracing as it does, the different economic, social and political phases of the situation, the Free Federation has become for the workmen of the island, in general, a labor parliament in permanent session, discussing all the problems that affect labor in its different phases and suggesting the most appropriated remedies for social illness.

Since its work was inaugurated there has

never occurred an act of injustice against the laboring class of Porto Rico which has not been brought before the people's conscience. On the other hand, there has not been a single good endeavor which has not been furthered and stimulated by this workers' institution.

The protection of women and children; the public health, education, charity and any good movement in Porto Rico's life has found a most energetic, sincere and disinterested advocate in the Free Federation of Labor.

**Democratic Institutions and Social Legislation.** The democratic institutions, the legislation of social and human character and everything that exists in the statute books as a guarantee of rights, and as a sign of progress has been furthered during the last twenty-three years of persistent struggle of the working class organized as the Free Federation of Labor.

**Their Great Battles.** The great battles of a social and economic character engaged in by the institution in the industrial and agricultural field, in order to improve the labor conditions, to rightfully increase compensation, to reduce working hours, to destroy political and industrial feudalism, to establish industrial democracy, to fight out monopolies, and to lift up the physical, mental and moral conditions of the agricultural laborers as well as of the industrial workers in cities, have caused tremendous economic sacrifices, the personal liberty of more than eight hundred men, the death of more than thirty industrial and agricultural workers who dared to face the defendants and supporters of privileges; all these represent the most glorious history of the Porto Rican working class, and all this also has powerfully contributed to win for the working class the international phase which it occupies in the labor council of the civilized world, a phase such as even yet is not occupied by workmen in some other ancient countries.

The number of local organizations comprising the Federation is now two hundred and thirty-six, there being represented in them 25,000 men and women workers, the property owned amounting to the value of \$50,000. From the year 1905 to 1920 the Federation paid out the sum of \$1,114,750.76 for the benefit



PARQUES DE RECREO, PONCE.

"EVERYTHING OF PROGRESS HAS BEEN FURTHERED."

of the sick, for the support of the strikers, for the help of unemployed, on account of death of its members and for office and other expenses:

Its active president, Santiago Iglesias, founded the institution and is the only representative of the working class in the Porto Rican Senate, having been elected by 59,817 votes almost all from the working class.

The organization of the laborers in Porto Rico such as propounded and advocated by the Free Federation of Labor is the only effective hope for the economic reconstruction of the island, which suffers from absentism and monopoly, the only effective power for a liberal, social, political and economic program and for the rectification of all wrongs and injustices which are detrimental to the Porto Rican working class, all these can only be secured thru the Free Federation of Porto Rico's Workers.

## Porto Rican Federation of Labor

By Andrés Rodríguez Vera,

Journalist. General Organizer of the Porto Rican Federation of Labor.

**Rapid Development of the Sugar Industry and Its Consequences.** When Congress established Free Trade in Porto Rico, the Domestic Tariff with its overcharges on consumers goods was imposed on the Island and at the same time protected the Island's sugar industry, the leading one of Porto Rico. As the formation of large estates was indirectly favored by the extinct Executive Council, the best lands passed rapidly under the control of the sugar corporations.

As the capitalists turned to the development of the sugar industry the population of the Island was increasing while the principal products of consumption decreased, Porto Rico's subsistence depending almost exclusively on her imports from the North.

Sugar produced hundreds of millions of dollars, but most of those who worked in the sugar industry on the Island were not enabled to live as they should, and the other industries of the Island were being disorganized as was shown by the official bulletins published by the Department of Labor at Washington, D.C., for the years 1901 and 1905, as drawn up by Dr. Azel Ames and Dr. Wily, special agents of the Department, who reported the notable decrease in the number of shops of Porto Rico, such as those of shoemakers, tailors, hat shops and other industries, that up to then had existed with relative ease, and which gave employment to thousands of workers. The urban laborers suffering from the results of competition of American manufacturers.

**Origin and Program of the Porto Rican Federation of Labor.** Local organizations of farmers, carmen, teachers, clerks, bookkeepers, tobacco selectors, government employees, etc. were in existence in Porto Rico, but they attended to their own interests, and therefore, the establishment of an organization with a program of economic defense was thought necessary.

Therefore, the Porto Rican Federation of Labor was founded in San Juan on July 25th,

1917, the body making among others the following declarations:

That labor enjoys a relative political freedom but that economically it is subjected to the competition and industrial pressure of foreign markets, and that this is gradually ruining Porto Rico's home industries, and thus keeping thousands of her countrymen in a subject condition as to employment and wages.

That the proletarians should start a move of their own, helped by people of goodwill, on a collectivistic basis in order to solve the problem of industry and of wages, and meet the conditions of supply and demand.

The producers should obtain control thru the gradual and peaceful evolution of the land, factories, machinery and all producers' goods, in order to fight the trusts and help native industries.

That the corporations dealing with public utilities, such as the telephone, telegraph, cable lines, steamship and railway lines, etc. should be in State or municipal hands, for the good of the community as a whole.

**Activities.** The Federation in 1912 organized an industrial exposition in Ponce to which was brought the best farm and industrial products. At this exposition more than three hundred prizes, both in gold and silver medals and in cash, were awarded. In the years 1920 and 1921 similar expositions were held in Bayamón, just across the harbor from San Juan, and at Caguas, with excellent results, they spreading among the people of Porto Rico the protectionist principle in favor of the island's industries.

**Organization.** To date the Federation has organized twenty-two unions of different occupations, nineteen with charters extended to them by the central committee and three councils formed of carpenters, farm laborers and longshoremen, with a total active membership of three thousand.

There is also a co-operative shop at Bayamón for the manufacture of school furniture,

and a co-operative store for consumers. At San Juan, the capital of the Island, the Federation has a co-operative printing shop.

Many laws of economic and social importance now in Porto Rico's statutes, were urged to the legislature by the Federation in its

yearly messages which embodied the resolutions adopted in its annual message conventions.

The sphere in which the Porto Rican Federation of Labor functions covers the entire social and economic problems of Porto Rico.

## Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross

By **Auturo Rodríguez Aguayo,**

President of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross.

One of the natural consequences of the incorporation of Porto Rico as an integral part of the United States of America and the entry of that nation into the world's conflict on the side of liberty and humanity, was the establishment in Porto Rico of a branch of the American Red Cross, to be known as the "Porto Rico Chapter".

Red Cross work, however, was no new thing in the island, as prior to the Spanish-American War, the Spanish Government organized a corps of doctors and nurses as the Spanish Red Cross, and it is with great pride that Porto Ricans remembered the brave act of Dr. José Celso Barbosa, who during the bombardment of San Juan Bay by the American fleet under Admiral Sampson on May 12th, 1898, crossed the bay in an open boat amid shot and shell, to answer the call of duty and to serve as one of the doctors attached to the Spanish Red Cross.

**Organization:** In 1917, nineteen years after Porto Rico became a part of the United States, Mr. Henry Dooley undertook the first steps towards organizing a chapter of the American Red Cross there, and called a meeting for that purpose on May 14th. The people of the island, just as Dr. Barbosa had done before them, promptly responded to the call of duty, organized the chapter, electing the following executive committee, to serve for one year: Chairman, Henry W. Dooley; Vice-Chairman, Judge Emilio del Toro; Secretary, Mrs. Adolph G. Wolf, and Treasurer, the Hon. José E. Benedicto. The other members of the Committee being: Hon. Charles Hartzell, Senator

J. Hernández López, Mr. J. W. Blanco, Mr. H. L. Cochran, Hon. Juan B. Huyke, Mrs. F. C. Holmes, Mrs. M. V. Domenech, Mrs. José Lugo Viñas, Mrs. J. S. Belaval, Mrs. J. R. F. Savage, Mrs. M. Rodríguez Serra, Hon. Luis Sanchez Morales, Mr. O. M. Sewell, Mr. J. Guzmán Benítez, Mrs. H. H. Hutchinson, Mrs. W. A. Glines, Dr. W. W. King and the Hon. Martín Travieso.

**Incorporation:** This Committee transmitted the documents of incorporation and all neces-



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GALLERY, UNIVERSITY OF PORTO RICO.

sary information to National Headquarters of the American Red Cross at Washington, and on May 31st came full recognition of their organization as the Porto Rico Chapter.

Fifteen hundred members were quickly enrolled, a number which was steadily increased through the organization of branch committees in seventy-eight cities, towns and villages throughout the island. Under the jurisdiction and direction of The Women's Department, hundreds of thousand of bandages, surgical dressings, hospital garments and other material were furnished to the Army already "over there", in fact, everyone worked hard for the cause, with the result that at the end of their term this first committee was ready to turn over to their successors an organization of loyal, enthusiastic workers fully equipped and ready to perform the work for which it was organized. And here the writer would state that all credit is due to that committee and especially to the man who first undertook the organization of American Red Cross in the island—Mr. Henry W. Dooley—for the immense amount of work done to establish in Porto Rico so splendid an organization.

From its inauguration to date the officers of the committee in charge of the Porto Rico Chapter have been:

Chairmen: Henry W. Dooley, 1917-18; Charles Hartzell, 1918-20; Emilio del Toro, 1920-21; Juan B. Huyke, 1921-22; Arturo Rodríguez, 1922-23. Vice-Chairmen: Emilio del Toro, 1917-18; H. L. Cochran, 1918-23; Treasurers: José E. Benedicto, 1917-23. Secretaries: Mrs. Adolph G. Wolf, 1917-18; J. W. Blanco, 1918-20; Joaquín López Cruz, 1920-21. Executive Secretaries: Col. Knowlton Mixer, 1921-22; H. S. House, 1922-23.

While the membership of the Committee for 1922-23 other than its officers are: Judge Emilio del Toro, Hon. Luis Sánchez Morales, Mr. Francisco Vizcarrondo, Mr. Joaquín López Cruz, Mrs. Angela C. de Miró, Mrs. J. T. Quinn, Mrs. Pedro del Valle, Mr. Earl K. Burton, Mr. Miguel Morales, Mrs. Fernández Náter, Mrs. Pedro Giusti, Mrs. A. L. Villard, Mrs. Carmen Schettini, Mrs. José Lugo Viña,

Hon. Juan B. Huyke, Dr. W. F. Lippit and Dr. Pedro Malaret.

The great work of the Red Cross in the island is too comprehensive to be given in detail in this article, as space only allows mention of its most important activities. The second year of its existence, however, is the one in which its vast work was organized and carried out, as well as the third, in which that work was completed, should receive here as complete mention as possible.

**War Activities:** In the former year, in addition to the officers of the Committee, as already mentioned, the members of the committee were: Mr. H. L. Cochran, Hon. Juan B. Huyke, Mrs. M. V. Domenech, Mr. Henry W. Dooley, Mr. J. Guzmán Benítez, Hon. Juan Hernández López, Mrs. José Lugo Viñas, Mrs. M. Rodríguez Serra, Mrs. A. Fernández, Dr. W. F. Lippit, Mrs. J. S. Belaval, Hon. Luis Sánchez Morales, Mrs. O. M. Sewell, Mrs. H. H. Hutchinson, Mrs. J. R. Savage, Mrs. F. C. Holmes, Mrs. Arthur Yager, Mr. J. Hernández Usera, Ex-Mayor Roberto H. Todd.

At this time Camp "Las Casas," which was to be the Headquarters for the training of the Porto Rico quota to the American Army, was nearing completion, and the officers in charge of the Military Department in Porto Rico had already selected the full quota of men to the number of approximately 15,000, who were waiting in their homes for the time, soon to come, when their quarters at Camp "Las Casas" would be ready.

The Porto Rico Chapter of the Red Cross was fully conscious of the work this mobilization would entail and their Home Service, which had been organized throughout the island, was set to work.

When the soldiers left their homes it was found that many parents, wives, sisters and children were left at home without means and that the problem was a serious one as the percentage of the number of absolute dependants left to the sole charge of the Porto Rico Chapter of the Red Cross was much greater than in any other place within the jurisdiction of the American Red Cross.

The Home Service Department of the Chapter had no available funds, and in answer to

a call to National Headquarters, between twenty-six and twenty-seven thousand dollars were sent to Porto Rico, and the work of the Home Service Department was started in earnest, and to give an idea of the work which they accomplished, we quote the following extract from the annual report of Chairman Hartzell. "The history of the work of our Home Service Organization from the month of June to the month of November, 1918, is a record of unexampled patriotism and devotion all over the island of Porto Rico. The \$26,000 received from the National Red Cross was quickly exhausted. Other funds were called for and to the extent of \$20,000 or \$25,000 additional funds were allotted to us by the National Red Cross authorities for Home Service work. But all this was only a fraction of the absolute and imperative requirements of the Branches, and in order to enable them to carry out the work which they had pledged themselves to accomplish, the Home Service Committee in the various towns of the Island undertook great personal responsibilities in the way of borrowing money directly upon their individual responsibility, or by giving personal guarantees from the officers and Committees to the merchants so as to secure credit for food and absolute necessities for the women and children, who were wholly dependant during all these months on the Red Cross Society.

This work through the Chapter authorities and the Home Service Committees in the island went to such an extent that it is safe to say, while the figures are not available, that in addition to all the funds which the organization was able to secure and distribute among its branches for the purpose, that obligations and guarantees of personal credits were given by the Chapter and Branches to an extent of more than \$100,000, so by the month of October or the first of November, 1918, there had been undoubtedly advanced, expended and guaranteed in the Home Service Work more than \$150,000, and the Chapter had supported absolutely from the month of June during all this period, at least 20,000 human beings, principally women and children who were absolutely without means or without possibility of receiving help from any other sources".

To this Executive Committee of the Porto Rico Chapter fell the task of writing the most brilliant record in the history of the Red Cross activities in Porto Rico. When the opportunity came it found the committee fully awake to its responsibilities and through the disinterested work of the different sub-committees and auxiliaries, representing the different activities of the Chapter, they were able to raise more than \$112,000 in the War Fund Drive.

In connection with this drive for funds it should be noted that when the two pounds of wool from the sheep which graze on the lawn of the White House in Washington, was sent to the then governor of Porto Rico, Hon. Arthur Yager—by President and Mrs. Wilson, to be used or disposed of in the manner that would bring the best results to the War Fund Campaign, these two pounds of wool became, as stated in the Chairman's annual report, "a symbol of patriotism for which wealthy men contended", and they were sold at auction to Mr. Eduardo Giorgetti for the sum of \$4,000, the highest price paid for similar wool in any other State or Territory of the Union.

The Women's Department made and shipped vast quantities of hospital and surgical supplies, garments and comforts, until notified by the National Society to restrict production; they also prepared 12,000 "comfort kits", which represented an expenditure of \$20,000 and which were presented as the gift of the Porto Rico Chapter to every officer and enlisted man of the Porto Rico Branch of the American Army.

The "First Reserve Auxiliary", made and forwarded for the men of the American Army, 120,000 jars of guava jelly, a contribution so unique in its character, and so great in quantity that it was mentioned throughout the press of the United States, and the Red Cross Circles of the world. The Chapter, through the gift of the growers and manufacturers of the island, also sent 1,500,000 packages of cigarettes to the boys of the American Army in France.

**Service During the Earthquake:** In this year, too, it was that the great earthquake did so much damage in the island, causing the



loss of hundreds of lives and millions of dollars. At the time that quake took place it chanced that the Vice-President and the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Chapter were in the vicinity of the destroyed area, and with the cooperation of the local committees of the towns affected by the disaster, the machinery of the Red Cross was put in action, emergency hospitals were established, and food, clothing and monetary aid was given to the needy, representing an outlay of over \$30,000. The people of Porto Rico and the National Society in Washington responded generously to the call for money and supplies of all kinds, and soon the Chapter had at hand all that was required to meet this emergency. Houses were reconstructed and new houses erected for the poor families whose homes had been destroyed. Fifty ready-made houses, donated to Porto Rico by the National Red Cross, were all utilized in the relief work of this Committee.

**Other Activities:** Mayaguez which suffered from that earthquake was visited by another calamity, in the burning of one of its principal theatres, where a large number of lives were lost and many people badly injured, and in this instance again the Red Cross was in the field instantly, a Red Cross Hospital was established and immediate relief given to the sufferers.

During the months of November and December, 1918, over 150,000 cases of influenza were reported to the Porto Rico Chapter by the local committees throughout the island, and the Chapter was again called to carry out its high mission.

It is impossible in a short article to show in detail all the work accomplished by what might be called the War Committee of the Chapter, but its work was so much appreciated by the members of the Chapter and by the people at large, that at the annual election in April, 1919, the same committee was unanimously elected to carry on the work it had started. This was the post war period, and though actual warfare had stopped with the armistice, the demand for service "over there" remained and the repatriation and demobilization of the great American Army called for

many activities; The Red Cross was always on hand here in Porto Rico and elsewhere with practical assistance.

**Program of Peace:** The demands of war ended, the chapter once more devoted all its energies to the demands of peace times, inaugurating, with all the other chapters of the organization, the "Program of Peace", a program planned to meet the conditions of the post war period. The work done by the Chapter during the war, in connection with the families of soldiers, indicated to them many acute problems to which their efforts could well be directed, as well as the existing need for their services in trying to ameliorate suffering on the island.

In September, 1920, Mr. Charles H. Forster, Director of the Organization of the Insular and Foreign Division of the American Red Cross, visited the island, and from that visit came the decision of the National Body to send an Executive Secretary to the island. Col. Knowlton Mixer was chosen, a man of great experience in Red Cross activities, and he arrived in January, 1921, all the activities of the Program of Peace taking on a decided impetus from that time. The organization of the Nursing Service, under the able direction of Miss Kathleen d'Olier, was the outstanding activity of the year.

Among the other activities of that year was the aid extended to the sufferers of the Arcibo and the Aguas Buenas fires, the aiding of victims of the epidemic of influenza, and the aid afforded Porto Ricans who were out of work in New York. Also the efficient and effective aid rendered to the sufferers from the most disastrous fire which ever happened in San Juan—that of May 1st, 1921, in the Puerta de Tierra district, and which left more than a hundred families without shelter, and these were cared for as long as need existed. A fresh air camp for children was also carried out by this committee's direction, the surplus from the funds collected for the above-mentioned fire being used for that purpose.

During the following year the abnormal business depression the world over, coupled with the low market price of sugar, caused much work for the Chapter. Service was also

rendered in connection with the survey of the Tuberculosis situation in the island, undertaken by Dr. J. G. Townsend, of the U. S. Public Health Service.

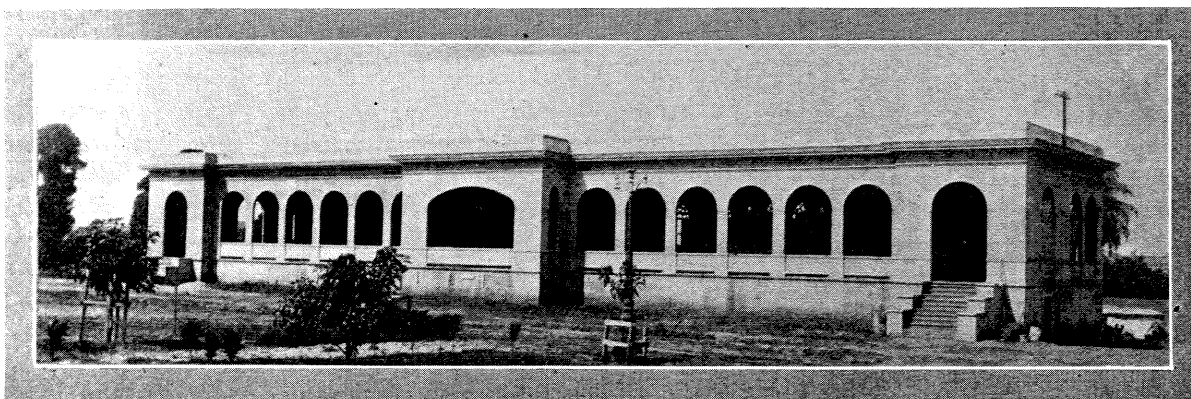
A movement was started toward the establishment of a Nurses' Training School, to train women in the work of Public Health Nursing, and a general Disaster Relief Committee was organized.

In February three Baby Clinics were opened in San Juan and later one in Ponce, and in May, help was afforded the needy sufferers from a fire at Humacao, and other work done.

At the annual Red Cross Convention at

Washington, in October, 1922, the Porto Rico Chapter was honored in having Judge Emilio del Toro asked to preside over the Pan-American Group of the Convention.

This brings this far from complete historical sketch of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross up to January 1st, 1923, but it cannot be closed without acknowledging the sincere thanks of the Executive Committee of the Chapter to all who have generously given of their time and money for the benefit of the Red Cross, and for the general support received from the people of the island, since the day the movement was first inaugurated.



EDIFICIO PARA NIÑOS TUBERCULOSOS DEL SANATORIO INSULAR, DONADO POR LA CRUZ ROJA JUVENIL.  
TUBERCULAR CHILDREN'S BUILDING DONATED BY SCHOOL CHILDREN TO THE INSULAR SANATORIUM.

## Junior Red Cross

By Francisco Vizcarrondo Morell, A.B., LL.B.,

Author. Secretary of the Department of Education. President, Junior Red Cross.

**Origin:** Just as in all other countries where the Junior Red Cross has been established and has taken root, it was a war requirement. At that time, when it was necessary to utilize all the living forces of the belligerent countries, the children were thought of as auxiliary members of the local sections of the humanitarian Red Cross institution.

Our association came to life precisely in the year the United States declared war on the German Empire. It forms part of the Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross, and it functions in intimate relation with the public school system.

The first Board of Directors was composed of the insular Commissioner of Education, who was at the same time a member of the Executive Committee of the Porto Rico Chapter, the President of the School Board of San Juan, and the Domestic Science Inspectress of the public schools. Local committees were appointed in the different municipalities of the island, in all cases consisting of the District School Inspector, the local school principal or director, and a female teacher, generally the teacher of domestic sciences.

**School Character:** The first membership drive was made during the school week of May 6

to 10, 1917, and the spirit of activity displayed by the children and teachers, seconded by a generous and enthusiastic public, is worthy of record on a page of honor in the history of our island. When the drive ended 68,013 school children had joined the association, and the total collected by

**War Contribution:** The amount collected in the first membership drive was entirely spent in the purchase of three ambulances for service on the European battlefields, later on a considerable sum having been devoted to the equipment of a ward in a French hospital. The members of the



OFICINA DENTAL DE LA CRUZ ROJA JUVENIL.  
CHILDREN DO NOT FEAR THE JUNIOR RED CROSS DENTIST.

way of dues reached the considerable sum of \$21,501.20.

**Aid:** The need of support for soldiers at the front and other war activities, levied a serious tribute of force and energy on the civil population of the countries engaged in the conflict. Porto Rican children found in this new activity a means of aiding in the work of supporting the nation's defenders, and so they took a very important part in the preparation of bandages for the wounded and of clothes for European children; in the sale of war savings stamps and bonds of the several loans; in the propaganda to stimulate production of native crops, and generally, in all activities serving to test their love of country and the loyalty of the inhabitants of the land.

association who were pursuing courses in manual training, made 500 extension chairs, outside of regular school hours, for the Porto Rican soldiers in training in Camp Las Casas.

**Co-operation of Teachers:** A detail worthy of remembering is the fact that during the first two years of its existence the Junior Red Cross did not spend a single cent for compensation for services. The work then, as it is now, was organized and directed by our teachers, and then as now, it was the disinterested co-operation and the endeavors of these noble promoters of progress that determined the unquestionable success of the association, of which all the children of the school now form part.

**The Future:** During the Great War no one

thought of the possibility of making a permanent organization of the Junior Red Cross. However, when the war ended it was the unanimous verdict of the educators who started and maintained the movement that said association, born of the needs of the moment, represented a considerable force easily available to second the wisely prepared peace program of the Red Cross Societies. In effect, the Great War which required such an enormous sacrifice of human life and left devastation and misery in its wake, has given rise in the hearts of men to the ardent desire of preparing future generations for a peaceful civilization which can only be secured by associating and initiating children from an early age in the apprenticeship of their duties towards their equals, not only in the former's own country but also outside of it.

Porto Rico followed the plan laid out by the General Headquarters of the National Red Cross, and also decided to take part in the peace program that is now being carried out with results worthy of all praise. Under that program the Junior Red Cross is at present a very strong and vigorous association solely and exclusively devoted to the welfare and health of the children of the island.

**Work Done:** To this end the Junior Red Cross establishes and maintains dental clinics and provides the children of schools distant from the towns, with tooth-paste and tooth-brushes. It initiates medical school inspection in rural districts; aids in maintaining children's homes and societies for the aid of infants; creates scholarships in the schools of the island and of the mainland for advanced students who lack means; makes toys for French orphans; awards prizes to students in rural schools who cultivate domestic and school gardens, this being done to promote agricultural production; contributes to and entirely maintains children's clinics where mothers and their little ones are attended to; has donated a school building for the children at the Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Rio Piedras and a dormitory for girl inmates of the Insular School for the Blind at San Juan; contributes to the support of school lunch rooms, and provides clothing and shoes for needy students.

In one word, the members of the Junior Red Cross of Porto Rico, directed by their self-sacrificing teachers, faithfully observe the principles of their institution, or, in other words, they understand and perform their duties of human and civic solidarity.

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## Rotary in Porto Rico

By H. L. Cochran,

President, San Juan Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club movement is young in the island, which is but another way of saying that it is a strong, active organization developing rapidly to full growth for the same reason that all healthy youngsters do—a good constitution.

In fact, its parents are young, the first Rotary Club having been formed only eighteen years ago. But the best proof that there was and is a need for an organization founded on the great principles of "service above self, he profits most who serves best" is the large number of members in the great International Rotary to-day, a number represented on January 1st, 1923, by 1,311 clubs with ap-

proximately 90,000 members in 27 countries.

In Porto Rico, the first Rotary Club was established in San Juan in April, 1918, but naturally enough, Ponce, always alive to progressive movements, got busy, and ten months later, in February, 1919, formed Porto Rico's second spoke in the great Rotary wheel.

True, San Juan felt the real need of Rotary first, realizing the need of an organization which would bring together representative men of the community who had common interests and aspirations for the city and island, but, true it also is, that once established in that city, it took a mighty short time for Ponce to feel and supply her need, and from the begin-

ning the clubs have served, at least in part, the purpose for which they were planted in the island by the early Rotarian missionaries.

Rotary got its name from the fact that in Chicago, where the idea was born, the club met in rotation at the members' various places

The membership in San Juan has been generally about sixty or seventy and in Ponce about thirty-five, and the members at their meetings have a chance to hear distinguished speakers and visitors to the island, and also while discussing their lunch, to discuss points



BANQUETE SEMANAL DEL CLUB ROTARIO.—A PUBLIC FORUM.

of business, and secured its present great strength because by promulgating the spirit of service, it gained added impulse in its rotation, just as a snowball attracts to it all that it touches.

Meetings are held each week, Tuesday noon in San Juan and Wednesday noon in Ponce, so that attendance on two meetings per week can be secured if so desired, as it often is, by Rotarians of both cities.

of interest to the island; in short, these informal meetings of Rotary perhaps to a greater degree than those of any other organization in the island, serve as open forums.

Each club has a Board of Directors elected yearly who in turn choose the officers of the club, and every member of both clubs will be found to try in their daily life, to live up to the Rotary Motto: "Service Above Self, He Profits Most Who Serves Best".

### The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

To the very last moment before going to press, we have waited for the article promised us concerning the Elks, but not having received it, and feeling that such an important organization must be represented in the book, the editors, while in New York, obtained such information as they could through the courtesy of the New York Lodge of Elks, from which to prepare the following short note.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was founded February 16th, 1868. Dispensation for the Porto Rico Lodge was

granted May 10th, 1905, through the Hon. Charles F. McKenna, Judge of the United States District Court, San Juan, a member of Pittsburgh Lodge No. 11.

The objects of the Elks are social, benevolent and protective. Mr. Levis C. Babcock is the present exalted ruler and Mr. Fred E. Cook is the Secretary. The total membership of San Juan Lodge No. 972 is 339 and their present home is on Olimpo Avenue, Santurce, a suburb of San Juan, but plans are now being perfected to erect a home suitable for their requirements.