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Puerto Rico Advances

Puerto Rico's economic situation is getting better. Not more
tion is getting better. Not long
ago it looked hopeless. With a
population of 520 persons per
square mile the island was one of
the most densely peopled regions
in the world. The annual per ca-
pita income was only \$119, and
no increase in manufacturing had
occurred in a decade.

A change for the better began
in 1938, when Munoz Marin or-
ganized the Popular Democratic
Party. He was a Puerto Rican
who had been brought up in New
York City, attended Georgetown
University and worked on a
Baltimore newspaper. With a
program of economic reform the
new party got control of the
legislature in 1940, and has re-
tained it by sweeping majorities
ever since. Marin got a hundred
new industries established, and
now less than 36 per cent of the
population is engaged in agricul-
ture. Tourists have been encour-
aged, and are already a great
asset. The birth rate is falling
off, and it begins to look as if
Puerto Rico were getting out of
the woods.

As a part of the United States
with territorial status, Puerto
Rico is of deep concern to us.
Its progress is gratifying.