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Puerto Rico Advances

Puerto Rico's economic situation is getting better. Not more than ten years 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 capita 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 organized 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 retained 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 agriculture. Tourists have been encouraged, 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.