My dear Wilson:

We all in Porto Rico owe you a special debt of gratitude for your insistence on the passage of the Porto Rican Act, which now seems assured. Neither Jones nor Shafroth had been able to effect it. The principal feature I take to be citizenship, which has so long been promised. It is not American to have dependent colonies.

At the same time, do not hope for very quick results. The future of this Island depends upon its being Americanized, and this must be done by institutions and influence, and not by immigration, as was possible in all other territory we acquired. This was also the idea of Governor Colton, who knew these people well. The Island is over-populated, and must some time or other send some of its population over to San Domingo.

Naming these people Americans will not make them so. It will be a long process and call for great patience. Four-fifths of them have some negro or Indian blood, and the other fifth have Latin ideals entirely un-American. I think compulsory education in English, making the Island bi-lingual, is the sine qua non of everything else. Until English is freely read and spoken, they must remain Latin rather than Americans, and of the most leaders, especially De Diego, whom you have properly characterized, will make the best of this situation for themselves.

At present they prefer an impossible independence to possible statehood. How soon Porto Rico will become American in the same sense that Louisiana has become American, is a very interesting
The governor should always be an American, and the veto by Congress is necessary. But most of all I think the United States court, strengthened and upheld in every way, is a fundamental institution. It can declare void any unconstitutional legislation and enforce all national laws. Of course you may rely upon it, that, while I will do this firmly, it will always be in the past, be in the most conciliatory manner. I do not think the power of this court has been appreciated in Congress, for a court has no way and no duty of bringing itself before the legislative mind; but I think there can be no question of the fact. The separatist leaders appreciate this and it is their ground of opposition to the court. I think there is practically no opposition to me personally, but the anti-American leaders dread the court. This explains a cable from the Lower House a few days ago making the old request of abolition of the court or modification so as to make it powerless. I have no idea Congress will do any such thing.

We shall be deeply affected by war, which seems imminent, despite your efforts. The Porto Ricans seem to take little interest and I see little evidence of patriotism in our sense that is something which has yet to be developed. There is a large and strong German element here which will have to be taken into account if hostilities come. I imagine it will be German policy to keep the United States occupied by troubles at home and in Latin America. We shall no doubt have special occasions if communication with the United States is cut off, or even lessened by the government taking the ships, or if submarines interfere with regular trips. I am told by high authority that there is
Hon. 2.2.  S.--

never more than four weeks' supplies upon the island. Porto Rico does not fed or clothe itself. Right now there is a good deal of distress in a suburb of San Juan due to measles. The local government proposes to do something in the way of requiring food crops, but this can hardly be enforced from above. I am planting a garden myself. I see the governor is trying to interest the big planters and sugar centrals, and this may be effective. The legislature spends too much of its time debating abstract and immaterial matters.

I hope, by the way, Senator Bankhead has been able to carry out his promise to have the bill amended so as to make my salary six thousand dollars, so as to equalize it with other district judges, and with the local Supreme Court chief justice. One can live on five thousand dollars, but not educate one's children properly or make any provision for the future.

May your health and strength be preserved during these troubled times!

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]

P.S.-- Yager says he does not like to volunteer to write in Federal matters, but if you need anything beyond the kind action of the local bar already sent you, he will, if asked from Washington, be glad to endorse my administration of judicial affairs. My commission is dated March 17.
Hon. Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Wilson:-

A cable has brought us news of the passage of the Porto Rican bill and it seems to be received with general satisfaction. Curiously enough, the Unionists regard it as a triumph of the late Muñoz Rivera, who opposed the bill until he could not help its passage. He wanted independence, although it is said he was changing his views shortly before his death. See "Extra" enclosed.

My impression is that present Unionists are anxious for the autonomy provided by the act, but have no enthusiasm for the Republicans, however welcome American ideals. The labor leaders are selecting this time—of all others—for strikes. But with tactful handling the new act affords opportunity for growth of Americanism.

Of course my function is interpretation, not constructive measures, but I may be able to aid a little from time to time. I am, for instance, to deliver a lecture before the law class of the University here the latter part of March, and will take as my subject American constitutional law. By contrasting it with Spanish institutions, in which these people have grown up, I hope to make it valuable as well as interesting.

With sincere congratulations on the Porto Rican act,
Yours very truly,

S Hamilton
Cable de Washington

¡Gran Triunfo de Muñoz Rivera!!

Nuestro representante en Washington Sr. González Lamas, ha remitido esta tarde al Sr. Antonio R. Barceló, Presidente de la Unión, el cablegrama que sigue:

Washington, Febrero 20.

Senado aprobó el Bill de Puerto-Rico a las 11 y 40 minutos de la mañana de hoy. Enmienda substituta al sufragio fué aceptada, proveyendo que las presentes leyes referentes a las cualificaciones de los electores continuarán en vigor hasta las próximas elecciones, después de lo cual se requerirá de los electores ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos, tener 21 años de edad y todas aquellas otras cualificaciones que sean provistas por la Legislatura, pero prohibiendo que se exija a los electores condiciones de propiedad.

El Senador Shafter espera poder llevar el bill inmediatamente a conferencias, y espera obtener su aprobación final dentro de dos o tres días.

González Lamas.
Hon. Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Wilson:-

By way of postscript to letter just mailed, I enclose clipping and translation from to-day's Democracia, the organ of the Unionists, the dominant political party here. It shows that I correctly gauged in advance the Unionist sentiment as to the new Organic Act. They accept it as conferring greater "liberty," that is, so far as it tends towards practical independence. As yet they aim only at making it a stepping stone for complete independence, and have not the slightest idea of making themselves Americans and adopting American ideals. Latin-Americans worship "liberty" as an abstract thing, not as a practical matter to be worked out under and by means of law, like the Anglo-Saxons. Change to the American point of view will be a very slow process, but will come with education, commerce and experience.

Very sincerely,

[Signature]

Enclosure: Clipping and Translation