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TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1924

JANUARY 2, 1925.—Referred to the Committee on Insular Affairs and ordered to be printed

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1925

MESSAGE

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 12 of the act of Congress of March 2, 1917, entitled "An act to provide a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes," I transmit herewith, for the information of the Congress, the Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico, including the reports of the heads of the several departments of the Porto Rican government and that of the auditor, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924.

I concur in the recommendation of the Secretary of War that this report be printed as a congressional document.

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 2, 1925.*

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 23, 1924.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT. I inclose the twenty-fourth annual report of the Governor of Porto Rico, including the reports of the heads of the several departments of the Government of Porto Rico for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924, together with drafts of messages for your signature, transmitting them to the Congress, as required by section 12 of the act of Congress approved March 2, 1917, entitled "An act to provide a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes."

I believe that this report and its appendixes should be printed, as they contain valuable and historical information, and I so recommend.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN W. WEEKS,
Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO

Hon. Horace M. Towner

Government House,
San Juan, P. R., September 1, 1924.

Sir: Pursuant to the law, I have the honor to submit the following report of the Governor of Porto Rico covering the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1924.

The only administrative change which occurred during the year was caused by the death of J. W. Bonner, treasurer, who was succeeded by Juan G. Gallardo.

Judge Bonner's life work was so intimately connected with the later history of Porto Rico as to warrant at least a brief review of his services. In 1911 he was appointed auditor of Porto Rico and was reappointed at the expiration of his term in 1914 by President Wilson. In 1919 he was again appointed for another term by President Wilson. In 1921 he was appointed bank examiner for the Treasury Department, which position he held until August, 1922. On May 2, 1923, he was appointed treasurer of Porto Rico by the present governor, which position he held until his sudden death at his post of duty, January 12, 1924. Judge Bonner's high character and superior ability will long be remembered by the people of Porto Rico. He left a record of sterling integrity and exceptional service which will be of inestimable value to the island.

FINANCE

The aggregate receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924, were $12,618,038.39. There was an available cash balance in the treasury July 1, 1923, of $217,840.10, which, added to the receipts, makes a total of $12,835,878.49. The expenditures under budgetary appropriations, including transfers from insular revenues to trust funds, reached $12,431,724.43, leaving an available cash balance in the treasury at the close of the fiscal year June 30, 1924, of $404,154.06. There was due from municipalities and school boards on account of loans authorized by law $52,033.34, thus making a total balance in favor of the insular government of $456,187.40.

In addition to the balance as above stated, the result of transactions of the fiscal year, there had accumulated a balance in the treasury of trust funds for specific purposes of $8,720,770.08, making a total in the treasury of $9,176,957.48.

The estimates of current expenditures of the present year are between $12,000,000 and $13,000,000. The current receipts, including the collection of delinquent taxes, should be approximately $14,000,000.

In the governor's report of last year attention was called to the persistent and increasing obstacles which were placed in the way of the collection of the revenue. Certain changes were made in the laws which it was hoped would eliminate grounds for further contest. Based upon that expectation the estimates for collections of revenue during the year 1923–24 amounted to $11,860,000. Instead of that expectation being realized the amount actually collected amounted to only $11,198,385.83.

A table follows showing in detail a comparison of the estimates and the actual receipts:

	Estimate for 1923–24	Actual collections during 1923–24
Customs	$1, 100, 000. 00	$1, 155, 000. 00
United States internal revenue receipts	1, 300, 000. 00	821, 790. 63
Income tax	4, 500, 000. 00	2, 517, 051. 90
Internal revenue	3, 900, 000. 00	3, 167, 171. 28
Property tax	450, 000. 00	411, 630. 02
Inheritance tax	50, 000. 00	52, 458. 13
Interest on government deposits	200, 000. 00	231, 887. 76
Telegraph and telephone receipts	110, 000. 00	117, 381. 59
Court fees and fines	50, 000. 00	54, 813. 81
Harbor and dock fees	35, 000. 00	29, 463. 97
Interest on municipal and school board loans	40, 000. 00	40, 385. 65
Miscellaneous	125, 000. 00	2, 599, 351. 09
Total	11, 860, 000. 00	11, 198, 385. 83

It will be noticed that the deficiencies were largely limited to two items, income tax and insular internal revenue. The deficit in income tax amounting to $1,982,948.10 and that of the insular internal revenue amounting to $732,828.72, or a total deficit on those two items alone of $2,715,776.82 on actual as against estimated receipts. The treasurer's report shows that instead of less opposition to the collection of the taxes, opposition increased, and the department encountered more difficulties in collecting the taxes during the fiscal year just closed than in any other during the past.

Including the income, excise, and general property taxes, the total of delinquent and unpaid taxes amounted at the close of the fiscal year to the sum of $3,035,661.81. Much of this amount is in litigation, and despite the efforts to bring the litigation to a close and to make reasonable settlements, only a comparatively small part of these delinquent taxes could be collected in time to meet the requirements of the government before the close of the fiscal year.

Fortunately, section 3 of our organic act makes provision for just such emergencies. It provides that—

> when necessary to anticipate taxes and revenues, bonds and other obligations may be issued by Porto Rico or any municipal government therein as may be provided by law, and to protect the public credit.

Under this authority the sum of $2,000,000 was borrowed on exceedingly favorable terms until such time as the collection of current and delinquent taxes shall become available. It is the expectation of the treasury department to repay the greater part, or perhaps all of this loan, within the current year.

The reasons for the persistent and widespread opposition to the payment of the taxes imposed by law seem to resolve themselves into two main classes. One has been because of unforeseen defects in the

law which afforded an opportunity and encouragement for delay and a chance to escape payment. The other has been the purpose on the part of certain taxpayers to institute litigation causing delay in collections, so as to embarrass the treasury until it should be compelled to make large reductions to avoid a deficit.

There really was no justification for opposition by taxpayers on either ground. If the amount of taxes imposed had been excessive defects in the laws would have justified opposition. But the taxes were not excessive. On the contrary, they were exceedingly small as compared with taxes in the United States. Our insular income tax is but a fraction of the amount of the Federal income tax. Our excise taxes are only a small part of such taxes imposed in the United States. Our general property taxes are very much less than one-half those imposed in the States.

The amount of income taxes paid during the last fiscal year in the United States amounted to $16.72 per capita. If the whole amount of income tax imposed in Porto Rico had been paid it would have amounted to only $3.46 per capita. Based on the amount actually collected, $2,517,000, it amounted to $1.93 per capita.

The total tax of 1923 in the United States, including National, State, and municipal taxes, amounted to $68.33 per capita. The total taxes which would have been paid by the people of Porto Rico if those imposed had been paid would have amounted to $9.02 per capita.

The legislature has been diligent on its part to cure existing defects in the tax laws. In the regular session of 1923, it redrafted the income and excise tax laws. In the special session, August 14, 1923, it amended the excise tax law, and passed an act creating a tax and revenue commission. At the special session, June 11, 1924, the income and excise tax laws were still further amended. The law regarding the payment of taxes under protest was redrafted so as to facilitate the collection of taxes and not allow payment in contested cases to be withheld, pending the decision of contests by the courts.

All these efforts have been directed to the making reasonable and plain the provisions of the law, and will in themselves greatly aid the treasury in securing the prompt and certain payment of taxes when due as well as aiding in the collection of delinquent taxes.

But it was recognized by those who had given the matter careful consideration that what was needed was a complete and well-considered revision of all the tax and revenue laws of the island. With that purpose in view the governor in his message to the legislature in April, 1923, recommended the creation of a tax and revenue commission which should prepare and report to the legislature a revision of all the tax and revenue laws. This recommendation was repeated to the legislature at the special session of August, 1923, which passed a law creating a commission consisting of the governor, the president, and one member of the senate, the speaker and one member of the house, the attorney general, and treasurer of Porto Rico. It is made the duty of the commission to prepare and report a complete revision of the tax and revenue laws of the island. The commission is authorized to hold public hearings and to receive recommendations from all persons interested. Public hearings were held from May 26 to June 6, 1924, and special days were

devoted to the sugar, coffee, tobacco, fruit, and other general interests of the island. The hearings have been published and are of great interest and value. The law also provides that the commission may engage the services of a tax and revenue expert, a person of recognized ability and experience to take charge of the direction of the work under the control of the commission. The commission was fortunate in securing the services of Prof. Robert M. Haig, of Columbia University, as such expert adviser. Professor Haig spent several weeks in the island studying conditions and attended the public hearings and conferred personally with the members of the commission. He is now engaged on his report with recommendations to the commission. It is expected that the full report to the legislature will be made at the next regular session in February, 1925.

The total bonded indebtedness of the insular government at the close of the fiscal year 1923–24, amounted to $16,773,000, or an increase of $4,079,000 over the preceding year. This increase is accounted for as follows:

New bond issues

Public improvement bonds—roads and bridges—authorized in 1921	$1, 000, 000
Irrigation bonds of 1923, for Isabela irrigation system	975, 000
Public improvement bonds of 1923—capitol building, insane asylum, penitentiary, hospitals, etc	3, 000, 000
Total	4, 975, 000

Provision is made for the payment of the bonds by the accumulation of a trust fund derived from collateral bonded securities, special levies, and from various other sources. There was in the treasury at the close of the fiscal year a balance to the credit of trust funds of $8,720,770.08 . Of this amount there is now available $129,200 for the final payment of the principal and interest of the first bond issue of 1907; the amount of $474,561.05 has already been accumulated for the redemption of the $1,000,000 bond issue of 1914; $317,978.23 is available for redemption of the public improvement bonds of 1922; and $227,100.47, for the redemption of the public improvement bonds of 1923. There is also available $54,-796.13 for the redemption of the $50,000 San Juan harbor improvement bonds of 1914.

The limit of indebtedness fixed by the organic act is 10 per cent of the assessed valuation. The assessed valuation at the close of the fiscal year 1923–24 was $312,384,305, an increase of $10,639,629 over the preceding year. The total amount of bonded indebtedness was, as has been stated, $16,773,000; so that the amount of indebtedness is little more than one-half of the prescribed limit. It is well understood, also, that the assessed valuation as reported is far below the actual value.

It will thus be seen that the financial condition of the island is good. Its bonds sell at a premium, carrying a low rate of interest. With an improved and impregnable system of taxation and revenue, which it is expected will be in effect during the current fiscal year, the island may look forward to years of financial progress and stability.

CORPORATIONS AND TRADE-MARKS

Thirty-nine domestic corporations were formed during the year. These corporations had a total authorized capital stock of $4,021,500 and a total paid-in capital stock of $144,880.

The number of domestic corporations dissolved was 19.

Twelve foreign corporations qualified for business in Porto Rico by registration in the office of the executive secretary. Their authorized capital stock aggregated $35,010,000, plus 16,008 shares of no par value and their paid-in capital stock $25,284,320.18. Eight corporations of this kind were entered in the records of the same office as having ceased to do business in the island.

In accordance with the provisions of the banking law of September 10, 1923, three banking institutions which had been formed under old code of commerce were reincorporated under said banking law. Their authorized capital stock was $936,000, and the paid-in capital with which these corporations engaged in business aggregated $291,630.

There were registered during the year 26 domestic associations not for pecuniary profit, and 10 associations of this nature were dissolved during the same period.

Two foreign associations not for pecuniary profit, their purposes being cooperative life insurance, qualified for operation in Porto Rico by registration in the office of the executive secretary. Another association of this kind ceased to do business in the island.

During the year but one cooperative association of production and consumption was organized. This association has the manufacture and sale of food products as its chief object. Its authorized capital stock is $50,000 and the capital subscribed at incorporation was $1,000. No association of this character was dissolved during the same period.

An opinion having to do with corporations was rendered by the attorney general on July 24, 1923, holding that no organization possessing the characteristics of a corporation, as a trust estate or common law company, can engage in business of buying and selling real estate in Porto Rico, in view of the prohibition of section 3 of joint resolution of Congress of May 1, 1900, that no corporation shall be authorized to conduct the business of buying and selling real estate in this island.

Two hundred and eighteen domestic trade-marks, 56 United States letters patent, and 13 United States trade-marks were registered during the year.

BANKING

The improvement in the financial conditions obtaining in the island during the fiscal year under review resulted in increased business for our banking institutions. Their condition at the close of the fiscal year was highly satisfactory. A small bank organized in San Juan by labor leaders was reported delinquent by the bank examiners. The affairs of the bank are now in litigation, and it is probable that liquidation will follow. Another small bank was placed in liquidation by the executive council in 1922. The bank will pay its depositors in full but will not likely be able to resume business unless reorganized.

No law regulating banking was in operation until during the year under review. A complete banking law was passed and approved September 10, 1923. It has worked smoothly and satisfactorily during the half year it has been in effect. The law has greatly helped the Treasury Department in the work of bank supervision, as definite rules and provisions for examinations are now provided. The attitude of the banks has been exceptionally praiseworthy. There has been no complaint or friction on their part in putting into effect the new law. On the contrary, they have loyally observed its provisions and heartily cooperated in its enforcement.

The number of banks doing business in Porto Rico at the close of the fiscal year was 18, with 27 branches, including branches of the National City Bank of New York, the Royal Bank of Canada, and the Nova Scotia Bank.

The aggregate capital, surplus, and undivided profits of these banks was $8,064,978.71.

The amount of depositors checking accounts on June 30, 1924, amounted to $20,728,188.80, as compared with $17,046,774.79 the previous year, an increase of $3,681,414.01, or over 21 per cent.

The total savings accounts June 30, 1924, amounted to $11,165,308.40, as compared with $10,494,875.37 the previous year, an increase of $670,433.03, or over six 6 cent.

The following is a summary of the transactions of the insular treasury for the fiscal year 1923–24:

Customs receipts during the year amounted to		$1, 155, 000. 00
Revenue receipts accruing to the insular government, made up of:		
Excess over legal municipal and school-board maxima	$492. 30	
United States internal revenues	821, 790. 63	
Property taxes	411, 137. 72	
Income taxes	2, 517, 051. 90	
Inheritance taxes	52, 458. 13	
Tobacco tax	1, 546, 515. 37	
Tax on spirits and liquors and for other taxes	1, 620, 655. 91	
Fees, fines, and other miscellaneous sources	3, 073, 283. 87	
		10, 043, 385. 83
Making the total actual revenues collected on account of the fiscal year 1923–24		11, 198, 385. 83
There were also reverted to and paid into the treasury, on account of general fund, representing repayments of loans to municipalities and school boards, repayments of unexpended funds to appropriations, sales refunds from the working capital account of the bureau of supplies, printing, and transportation, and various other minor transfers, aggregating		3, 956, 115. 61
Making the total insular treasury receipts on account of general funds available for expenditures under appropriation		15, 154, 501. 44
Receipts of trust fund for property taxes on account of municipalities and school boards	$2, 870, 033. 61	
Court fees and fines	61, 126. 68	
Harbor and dock fees	75, 064. 61	
Interest on banks' deposits	6, 701. 62	
Municipal bond redemption taxes	1, 307, 896. 72	
Sinking fund, insular bond redemption	778, 080. 61	
From miscellaneous sources and transfers	8, 880, 030. 48	
		13, 978, 934. 33
Bringing the total receipts of the treasury for the year up to		29, 133, 435. 77

This amount added to the cash in the treasury at the close of 1922–23		$6, 779, 124. 65
Makes the total to be accounted for		35, 912, 560. 42
On account of appropriations by the legislative assembly, there were expended during the fiscal year:		
For legislative expenses	$173, 220. 96	
For all services, public works, improvements, and expenses incurred by and effected through the various branches of the executive department of the insular government	12, 945, 551. 02	
For the support of the judiciary	689, 903. 82	
Or a total of	13, 808, 675. 80	
Further disposition of available funds in loans to municipalities and school boards and transfers, amounting to	1, 159, 511. 68	
		14, 968, 187. 48
Reducing the amount at the disposal of the government to		20, 944, 372. 94
Disposition of trust fund represented by payments made from municipal and school boards, tax accounts, amounting to	$3, 351, 613. 10	
Expenditures from irrigation fund	719, 419. 86	
Other expenditures, repayments, and transfers	7, 748, 415. 84	
In all, aggregating		11, 819, 448. 80
Reduced the amount to the credit of the government at the end of the year in available resources to		9, 124, 924. 14
Segregating from this amount representing funds held in trust for specific purposes		8, 720, 770. 08
There remains available for expenditures under legislative appropriations		4, 404. 154. 06

THE BUDGET

Since the establishment of the civil government of Porto Rico under the American sovereignty, the budgetary appropriations for the support of the insular government have been prepared by the executive department of the government and submitted to the legislature for enactment.

Under the Foraker Act in force until March 2, 1917, when the present organic act, known as the Jones Act, was enacted by Congress, no provision was made placing upon the administration the duty to frame the budget, and this duty was assumed by the executive council, which in turn intrusted the treasurer of Porto Rico with its preparation as chairman of the committee on finance and appropriations. Based upon the estimates submitted by the different departments and offices of the government, the treasurer framed and introduced on behalf of said committee the appropriation bill for enactment by the legislative assembly.

Under the provisions of the present organic act, known as the Jones Act, "the governor shall, at the opening of each legislature, submit a budget of receipts and expenditures, which shall be the basis of the ensuing biennial appropriation bill." In accordance with this provision of the law, my predecessor submitted to the second session of the tenth legislature of 1923 a budget of expenditures for the biennial of 1923–24, 1924–25 amounting to $12,152,611 and $12,182,011, respectively. The budget for these years, as finally

approved by the undersigned, amounted to $11,841,249.90 for the fiscal year 1923–24, and $11,735,139.90 for the fiscal year 1924–25. A review of our budgetary appropriations since the establishment of the civil government shows a steady increase in the amounts appropriated for the support of the insular government from $2,001,302 in 1901–02 to our present budget of $11,735,139. This increase is fully justified by the corresponding expansion in the commercial and industrial development of the island, as is fully evidenced by the steady increase of our assessed valuation of property from $96,426,322 in 1901–02 to $312,384,305 in 1923–24. In this connection it is interesting to note that while the budgetary appropriations have increased as stated above, in parallel lines with the value of property, the percentage that the budget bears to the total assessed valuation of property has increased only from 2 per cent in 1901 to 3 per cent in 1924.

The budget for 1924 was, as above stated, prepared and submitted to the legislature by the former administration. The present administration did not organize till about the end of the session with new incumbents in the majority of the governor's cabinet and heads of departments, and, for this reason, and the short time available, a careful study and scrutiny of the different items in the budget could not be made, but special recommendations were made by the undersigned to the different heads of departments and offices to observe the strictest economy in their expenditures, which recommendations they have most solicitously observed, and, as a result, nearly $700,000 has been saved in the appropriations for the fiscal year 1923–24, which will be turned over to the general funds of the insular treasury on December 31, 1924, as provided by the rules of the auditor's office. It is thought that an even larger saving from authorized expenditures will be made during the current year.

A statement showing the increase in the assessed valuation of the property of the island, with the regular annual budgetary appropriations is given below:

Fiscal year	Assessed valuation	Regular budgetary appropriations	Fiscal year	Assessed valuation	Regular budgetary appropriations
1900–01		$91,000.00	1913–14	$181,617,855	$5,232,091.03
1901–02	$96,426,322	2,001,302.21	1914–15	172,542,323	3,972,981.06
1902–03	93,104,210	2,202,326.80	1915–16	180,730,241	3,683,322.68
1903–04	93,225,319	2,214,874.40	1916–17	182,631,968	4,230,648.00
1904–05	89,237,089	2,378,211.05	1917–18	240,635,001	4,747,156.77
1905–06	93,384,208	2,336,754.05	1918–19	250,827,378	5,326,299.40
1906–07	98,910,192	2,512,618.18	1919–20	264,238,006	7,067,412.15
1907–08	108,078,959	2,992,256.00	1920–21	286,430,703	8,079,252.15
1908–09	117,513,945	3,173,295.41	1921–22	303,153,848	9,935,387.50
1909–10	122,358,183	2,993,234.00	1922–23	301,075,246	9,935,387.50
1910–11	133,223,775	3,260,828.36	1923–24	312,384,305	11,841,249.90
1911–12	163,132,052	3,427,853.02	1924–25		11,735,139.90
1912–13	178,766,711	3,993,848.86			

EXTERNAL TRADE

The total external trade of Porto Rico in 1900 was $16,602,004. In 1924 it had grown to $177,650,164. The total for 1924 exceeded the total for 1923 by $23,412,609.

In 1900 Porto Rico purchased from the United States products and merchandise to the amount of $6,952,114. In 1924 it had increased to $80,590,021. The increase in the amount purchased in 1924 over the amount purchased in 1923 was $15,846,559.

In 1900 Porto Rico shipped to the United States her products to the value of $3,350,577. In 1924 Porto Rico sold to the United States her products to the value of $80,754,975. This was an increase of $3,747,718 over the preceding year.

In 1900 Porto Rico imported from foreign countries $3,037,391. In 1924, such imports amounted to $8,779,603; an increase of $1,578,560 over 1923.

In 1900 Porto Rico shipped to foreign countries her products to the value of $3,261,922. In 1924, it had increased to $7,525,565. The increase in the amount sold in 1924 over the amount sold in 1923 was $2,239,772.

The above statistics show plainly that the commerce of Porto Rico has kept on increasing steadily. The volume of business done with the United States has been 10 times greater during the year than with foreign countries. Our total commerce surpassed that of the previous year by $23,412,609. The increase of our trade with the United States this year was $19,594,277.

As may be seen in Table No. 5 of this report, the trade balance this year is $1,089,084 against the island, but this can easily be accounted for by the great amount of materials needed for the increased building activities so noticeable during the year. Thus we have an increase of $1,715,139 over last year in lumber and wood manufactures and of $2,705,747 in iron and steel manufactures—these two items alone showing an increase of $4,420,886 over the previous year. Machinery and vehicles show an increase of $2,749,771 over the imports for 1923. There was also an increase of $67,760 in agricultural machinery and implements over the previous year.

The total amount of receipts collected at the customhouse for the year was $1,367,824.35. The amount turned over to the treasury of Porto Rico was $1,155,000.

The total number of clearances and entrances of vessels from ports of Porto Rico during the year was 1,826.

The following tables indicate the relative values and quantities of imports and exports during the fiscal year 1923–24 and previous years:

TABLE No. 1.—*Merchandise shipped from Porto Rico to the United States and foreign countries*

Years	To the United States	To foreign countries	Total	Years	To the United States	To foreign countries	Total
1901	$5,581,288	$3,002,679	$8,583,967	1913	$40,538,623	$8,564,942	$49,103,565
1902	8,378,766	4,055,190	12,433,956	1914	34,423,180	8,679,582	43,102,762
1903	11,051,195	4,037,884	15,089,079	1915	42,311,920	7,044,987	49,356,907
1904	11,722,826	4,543,077	16,265,903	1916	60,952,768	5,778,805	66,731,573
1905	15,633,145	3,076,420	18,709,565	1917	73,115,224	7,855,693	80,970,917
1906	19,142,461	4,115,069	23,257,530	1918	65,514,989	8,779,033	74,294,022
1907	22,070,133	4,926,167	26,996,300	1919	71,015,351	8,480,689	79,496,040
1908	25,891,281	4,753,209	30,644,490	1920	133,207,508	17,603,941	150,811,449
1909	26,394,312	3,996,913	30,391,225	1921	103,388,227	8,890,348	112,278,575
1910	32,095,645	5,864,574	37,960,219	1922	66,229,771	5,942,800	72,172,571
1911	34,765,409	5,152,958	39,918,367	1923	77,007,257	5,285,793	82,293,050
1912	42,873,401	6,832,012	49,705,413	1924	80,754,975	7,525,565	88,280,540

TABLE No. 2.—*Merchandise shipped into Porto Rico from the United States and foreign countries*

Years	From the United States	From foreign countries	Total	Years	From the United States	From foreign countries	Total
1901	$6, 965, 408	$1, 952, 728	$8, 918, 136	1913	$33, 155, 005	$3, 745, 057	$36, 900, 062
1902	10, 882, 653	2, 326, 957	13, 209, 610	1914	32, 568, 368	3, 838, 419	36, 406, 787
1903	12, 245, 845	2, 203, 441	14, 449, 286	1915	30, 929, 831	2, 954, 465	33, 884, 296
1904	11, 210, 069	1, 958, 960	13, 169, 029	1916	35, 892, 515	3, 058, 641	38, 951, 156
1905	13, 974, 070	2, 562, 189	16, 536, 259	1917	49, 539, 249	4, 005, 975	53, 545, 224
1906	19, 224, 881	2, 602, 784	21, 827, 665	1918	58, 945, 758	4, 443, 524	63, 389, 282
1907	25, 686, 285	3, 580, 887	29, 267, 172	1919	57, 898, 085	4, 502, 275	62, 400, 360
1908	22, 677, 376	3, 148, 289	25, 825, 665	1920	90, 724, 259	5, 664, 275	96, 388, 534
1909	23, 618, 545	2, 925, 781	26, 544, 326	1921	97, 074, 399	8, 405, 304	105, 479, 703
1910	27, 097, 654	3, 537, 201	30, 634, 855	1922	57, 400, 028	6, 775, 121	64, 175, 149
1911	34, 671, 958	4, 115, 039	38, 786, 997	1923	64, 743, 462	7, 201, 043	71, 944, 505
1912	38, 470, 963	4, 501, 928	42, 972, 891	1924	80, 590, 021	8, 779, 603	89, 369, 624

TABLE No. 3.—*Merchandise shipped into and from Porto Rico in trade with the United States*

Years	Imports	Exports	Total trade with United States	Years	Imports	Exports	Total trade with United States
1901	$6, 965, 408	$5, 581, 288	$12, 546, 696	1913	$33, 155, 005	$40, 538, 623	$73, 693, 628
1902	10, 882, 653	8, 378, 766	19, 261, 419	1914	32, 568, 368	34, 423, 180	66, 991, 548
1903	12, 245, 845	11, 051, 195	23, 297, 040	1915	30, 929, 831	42, 311, 920	73, 241, 751
1904	11, 210, 069	11, 722, 826	22, 932, 895	1916	35, 892, 515	60, 952, 768	96, 845, 283
1905	13, 974, 070	15, 633, 145	29, 607, 215	1917	49, 539, 249	73, 115, 224	122, 654, 473
1906	19, 224, 881	19, 142, 461	38, 367, 342	1918	58, 945, 758	65, 514, 989	124, 460, 747
1907	25, 686, 285	22, 070, 133	47, 756, 418	1919	57, 989, 085	71, 015, 351	128, 913, 436
1908	22, 677, 376	25, 891, 281	48, 568, 657	1920	90, 724, 259	133, 207, 508	223, 931, 767
1909	23, 618, 545	26, 394, 312	50, 012, 857	1921	97, 074, 399	103, 388, 227	200, 462, 626
1910	27, 097, 654	32, 095, 645	59, 193, 299	1922	57, 400, 028	66, 229, 771	123, 629, 799
1911	34, 671, 958	34, 765, 409	69, 437, 367	1923	64, 743, 462	77, 007, 257	141, 750, 719
1912	38, 470, 963	42, 873, 401	81, 344, 364	1924	80, 590, 021	80, 754, 975	161, 344, 996

TABLE No. 4.—*Merchandise shipped into and from Porto Rico in trade with foreign countries*

Years	Imports	Exports	Total foreign trade	Years	Imports	Exports	Total foreign trade
1901	$1, 952, 728	$3, 002, 679	$4, 955, 407	1913	$3, 745, 057	$8, 564, 942	$12, 309, 999
1902	2, 326, 957	4, 055, 190	6, 382, 147	1914	3, 838, 419	8, 679, 582	12, 518, 001
1903	2, 203, 441	4, 037, 884	6, 241, 325	1915	2, 954, 465	7, 044, 987	9, 999, 452
1904	1, 958, 960	4, 543, 077	6, 502, 037	1916	3, 058, 641	5, 778, 805	8, 837, 446
1905	2, 562, 189	3, 076, 420	5, 638, 609	1917	4, 005, 975	7, 855, 693	11, 861, 668
1906	2, 602, 784	4, 115, 069	6, 717, 853	1918	4, 443, 524	8, 779, 033	13, 222, 557
1907	3, 580, 887	4, 926, 167	8, 507, 054	1919	4, 502, 275	8, 480, 689	12, 982, 964
1908	3, 148, 289	4, 753, 209	7, 901, 498	1920	5, 664, 275	17, 603, 941	23, 268, 216
1909	2, 925, 781	3, 996, 913	6, 922, 694	1921	8, 405, 304	8, 890, 348	17, 295, 652
1910	3, 537, 201	5, 864, 574	9, 401, 755	1922	6, 775, 121	5, 942, 800	12, 717, 921
1911	4, 115, 039	5, 152, 958	9, 267, 997	1923	7, 201, 043	5, 285, 793	12, 486, 836
1912	4, 501, 928	6, 832, 012	11, 333, 940	1924	8, 779, 603	7, 525, 565	16, 305, 168

TABLE No. 5.—*Statement showing annual trade balance resulting from the commerce between Porto Rico and other countries*

Years	Imports	Exports	Balance— In favor of the island	Balance— Against the island	Total imports and exports
1901	$8,918,136	$8,583,967		$334,169	$17,502,103
1902	13,209,610	12,433,956		775,654	25,643,566
1903	14,449,286	15,089,079	$639,793		29,538,365
1904	13,169,029	16,265,903	3,096,874		29,434,932
1905	16,536,259	18,709,565	2,173,306		35,245,824
1906	21,827,665	23,257,530	1,429,865		45,085,195
1907	29,267,172	26,996,300		2,270,872	56,263,472
1908	25,825,665	30,644,490	4,818,825		56,470,155
1909	26,544,326	30,391,225	3,846,899		56,935,551
1910	30,634,855	37,960,219	7,325,364		68,595,074
1911	38,786,997	39,918,367	1,131,370		78,705,364
1912	42,972,891	49,705,413	6,732,522		92,678,304
1913	36,900,062	49,103,565	12,203,503		86,003,627
1914	36,406,787	43,102,762	6,695,975		79,509,549
1915	33,884,296	49,356,907	15,472,611		83,241,203
1916	38,951,156	66,731,573	27,780,417		105,682,729
1917	53,545,224	80,970,917	27,425,693		134,516,141
1918	63,389,282	74,294,022	10,904,740		137,683,304
1919	62,400,360	79,496,040	17,095,680		141,896,400
1920	96,388,534	150,811,449	54,422,915		247,199,983
1921	105,479,703	112,278,575	6,798,872		217,758,278
1922	64,175,149	72,172,571	7,997,422		136,347,720
1923	71,944,505	82,293,050	10,348,545		154,237,555
1924	89,369,624	88,280,540		1,089,084	177,650,164

TABLE No. 6.—*Merchandise brought into Porto Rico from the United States during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924*

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value
Group 0, animals and animal products, excepting wool and hair:			
Animals—			
Cattle	Number	620	$71,409
Horses	do	35	21,335
Mules	do	41	10,500
Other animals	Pound	15,150	7,991
Meats—			
Hams and shoulders, cured	do	7,694,296	979,972
Beef, pickled or cured	do	2,971,776	245,128
Pork, pickled	do	13,582,923	1,554,709
Sausages, canned or uncanned	do	2,107,542	416,346
Beef and meats, canned	do	501,901	83,318
All other meats	do	3,899,473	395,781
Eggs	Dozen	86,009	30,258
Dairy products—			
Milk, condensed or prepared	Pound	3,716,486	476,728
Butter	do	1,311,126	427,563
Cheese	do	2,888,092	714,598
Fish—			
Smoked or dry cured	do	4,988,747	426,211
Salmon, canned	do	1,160,271	102,034
All other	do	13,639,464	1,133,810
Lard and lard compounds	do	15,839,375	2,166,619
Other animal oils and fats	do	406,220	55,210
Leather and manufactures—			
Upper leather	Square foot	588,757	98,449
Other, including sole leather	Pound	36,215	19,957
Boots and shoes	Pair	1,531,153	2,849,217
All other leather manufactures	Pound	260,159	213,281
Fur and other animal products	do	84,992	31,291
Group 1, vegetable food products, oil seeds, expressed oils and beverages:			
Grains and preparations of—			
Corn	Bushel	15,172	16,191
Corn meal and flour	Barrel	91,977	396,122
Oats	Bushel	310,487	180,363
Rice	Pound	190,475,781	8,317,691
Wheat flour	Barrel	431,246	2,350,015
Bread, biscuits, and crackers	Pound	5,396,985	682,899
Other grains, flours, and products of			218,058

TABLE No. 6.—*Merchandise brought into Porto Rico from the United States during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924*—Continued

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value
Group 1, vegetable food products, oil seeds, expressed oils and beverages—Continued.			
Fodders and feeds—			
Oil cake and meal	Pound	1,574,207	$40,448
Hay, bran, middlings, and mill feeds	Ton	12,746	637,030
Vegetables—			
Beans and dried peas	Bushel	463,422	1,668,515
Potatoes	do	456,526	550,999
Onions	do	93,522	165,622
Canned vegetables	Pound	1,558,816	153,434
All other vegetables	do	971,523	88,157
Fruits—			
Apples	Box	19,431	55,894
Other ripe or dried fruits	Pound	1,316,733	154,554
Canned or preserved fruits	do	2,030,963	244,309
Nuts	do	162,363	28,364
Oils, expressed—			
Cottonseed oil	do	80,591	10,794
Linseed oil	do	885,866	114,879
Other vegetable oils and fats	do	1,555,731	205,915
All other food and vegetable products—			
Cocoa and chocolate	do	575,124	192,819
Sugar, refined	do	7,292,735	610,871
Confectionery	do	4,004,930	663,984
Beverages and fruit juices	Gallon	322,566	318,675
All other vegetable products			62,953
Group 2, other vegetable products, except fiber and wood:			
Rubber manufactures—			
Boots and shoes	Pair	469,126	330,138
Auto tires	Number	59,540	669,236
All other rubber manufactures			443,706
Naval stores: Tar, turpentine and pitch	Pound	673,270	19,314
Seeds: Field and vegetable	do	48,203	7,621
Tobacco—			
Leaf	do	2,794,327	706,425
Cigarettes	Thousand	249,201	553,657
Other tobacco manufactures	Pound	154,163	38,301
Other vegetable products, including starch			147,181
Group 3, textiles:			
Cotton—			
Sewing, crochet, and embroidery cotton	Pound	242,077	349,588
Cotton cloth—			
Unbleached	Square yard	13,921,462	2,964,804
Bleached	do	7,219,492	1,136,226
Printed	do	8,032,838	1,037,727
Piece, dyed	do	12,315,111	2,090,594
Yarn, dyed	do	7,872,822	1,383,386
Other cotton fabrics	Pound	332,377	193,424
Cotton clothing—			
Hosiery	Dozen pair	410,160	673,943
Other knit goods	Pound	317,317	305,726
Other cotton clothing			2,213,827
Laces and embroideries	Yard	3,730,440	239,471
Other cotton manufactures	Pound	1,995,501	1,070,706
Fiber—			
Bags	do	7,902,773	762,321
Cordage and twine	do	1,507,447	240,253
Straw and grass, manufactures	do	219,678	155,230
Other vegetable fiber manufactures	do	674,096	347,063
Wool and manufactures of			492,044
Silk and manufactures of			352,879
Other textile manufactures			147,991
Group 4, wood and paper:			
Wood—			
Logs and timber	M foot	296	14,220
Boards, planks, and deals	do	62,583	2,283,003
Box shooks	Set	2,061,980	401,251
Furniture	Pound	4,185,767	990,026
Other wood and other wood manufactures			609,961
Paper—			
Newsprint and other printing paper	Pound	2,507,111	162,918
Wrapping paper	do	7,307,984	467,549
Other paper manufactures	do	6,183,709	732,251
Books, pictures, and other printed matter	do	1,226,445	588,705
Group 5, nonmetallic minerals:			
Coal	Ton	50,593	284,163
Mineral oils—			
Crude oil	Gallon	1,520	214
Gasoline, naphtha	do	7,853,056	1,068,118
Illuminating oil	do	2,389,667	404,462
Lubricating oil	do	811,009	355,508
Other petroleum products	do	1,771,481	150,866

TABLE No. 6.—*Merchandise brought into Porto Rico from the United States during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924*—Continued

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value
Group 5, nonmetallic minerals—Continued.			
Cement, hydraulic	Barrel	103,906	$250,209
Glass—			
Window and plate glass	Square foot	369,426	77,736
Bottles, vials, and jars	Pound	1,804,533	133,063
Other glassware	do	752,331	159,996
China and porcelain ware	do	567,862	106,362
Earthenware and stoneware	do	6,939,426	259,301
Other nonmetallic mineral products	do	6,812,511	225,041
Group 6, metals and manufactures of, except machinery and vehicles:			
Iron and steel—			
Iron and steel bars	do	12,409,072	368,283
Galvanized sheets	do	16,397,182	751,294
Structural forms	Ton	1,383	137,762
Rails for railway	do	3,233	143,223
Cast pipe and fittings	Pound	28,025,852	1,041,693
Wire	do	5,723,747	339,237
Nails	do	4,974,598	206,355
Cutlery	do	111,077	106,890
Tin and galvanized hollow ware and other ware	do	5,072,918	617,163
Tools	do	1,334,854	379,964
Builders' hardware and other hardware	do	1,094,222	312,025
Other iron and steel manufactures			1,855,525
Aluminum manufactures	Pound	37,732	19,660
Copper and manufactures of	do	731,499	174,652
Brass and bronze manufactures	do	297,741	140,925
Other metals and manufactures of	do	1,325,910	267,522
Group 7, machinery and vehicles:			
Steam engines and parts			180,554
Internal-combustion engines			31,953
Electric apparatus and parts—			
Generators	Number	39	54,888
Batteries	do	74,807	45,667
Electric lamps	do	363,034	103,765
Other electric apparatus and parts			596,520
Pump and pumping machinery	Pound	698,431	198,185
Sewing machines	Number	3,677	116,900
Sugar-mill machinery	Pound	2,752,829	420,166
Other machinery and parts			996,796
Agricultural machinery and implements			230,559
Vehicles—			
Motor trucks and buses	Number	564	488,720
Passenger automobiles	do	2,759	2,152,373
Automobile parts and accessories	Pound	1,450,779	436,269
Bicycles and motor cycles	Number	975	36,775
Cars for railways	do	165	98,702
Other vehicles and parts	Pound	1,867,733	227,751
Group 8, chemicals and allied products:			
Chemicals—			
Medicinal and pharmaceutical preparations	do	1,775,755	631,536
Acids	do	567,383	37,580
Soda compounds	do	1,159,122	40,942
Other chemicals	do	3,953,190	583,932
Paints and pigments—			
Pigments and dry colors	do	1,375,741	121,400
Ready-mixed paints	do	1,401,283	264,389
Other paints and varnishes	do	1,095,213	134,454
Fertilizers—			
Nitrate of soda	Ton	1,095	57,420
Prepared fertilizers	do	16,675	784,960
Other fertilizers	do	47,873	2,184,622
Explosives	Pound	263,865	68,186
Soap—			
Toilet or fancy	do	566,264	146,010
Other soap	do	14,339,771	841,495
Perfumery, cosmetics, and toilet preparations	do	684,152	295,746
Blacking and polishes	do	139,485	30,275
Group 9, miscellaneous:			
Motion-picture films	Linear feet	1,769,918	68,520
Scientific and professional instruments and apparatus	Pound	33,269	74,430
Musical instruments—			
Pianos	Number	371	102,639
Phonographs	do	2,052	68,302
Other musical instruments and parts	Pound	107,142	70,958
Toys	do	555,443	204,868
Household and personal effects	do	143,294	66,438
Candles	do	1,454,808	139,178
All other articles			834,048
Total			80,590,021

The importations of animals and animal products from the United States aggregated $12,531,715, or an increase of $923,522 over the preceding year, the articles showing the largest increase being: Fish, an increase of $347,638; dairy products, $241,356; and leather and manufactures of, $124,582. Breadstuffs amounting to $12,161,339 were imported during the year from the United States, showing an increase of $1,775,325 over the preceding year. The principal items were, as usual, rice, valued at $8,317,691, and wheat flour, at $2,-350,015, representing an increase of $1,842,522 in rice and a decrease of $157,037 in wheat flour as compared with the figures of the previous year. The quantity of rice imported shows an increase of 15,888,575 pounds and an increase in price of $0.006 to the pound. Vegetable oils increased in the amount of $135,805. The increase in the value of the importations of tobacco manufactures was $74,777, and in rubber manufactures, $264,917. Cotton goods increased from $10,957,820 in 1923 to $13,659,422 in 1924, an increase of $2,701,602; fiber manufactures increased from $1,115,623 in 1923 to $1,504,867 in 1924. Wood and wood manufactures show an increase of $1,690,459. The value of the importations of iron and steel manufactures shows an increase of $2,271,784. Machinery and vehicles show an increase of $2,868,617, as compared with the figures of the previous year. The increase in chemicals and allied products was $879,107.

TABLE No. 7.—*Merchandise brought into Porto Rico from foreign countries during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924*

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value
GROUP 0.—ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPTING WOOL AND HAIR			
Animals:			
Horses	Number	14	$1,885
Other live animals			4,322
Meats:			
Fresh meats	Pound	251,135	12,884
Meats, prepared or canned	do	3,943,201	299,045
Dairy products:			
Condensed and evaporated milk	do	13,421	1,744
Butter	do	217,323	156,724
Cheese	do	1,908,341	361,864
Fish:			
Dried fish—			
Codfish	do	15,876,057	1,236,064
Herring	do	1,047,423	33,891
Hake	do	440,376	26,932
Other dried fish	do	965,807	69,108
Fish in oil—			
Sardines	do	20,810	27,887
All other	do	104,598	14,779
Hides and skins, excepting furs	do	35,576	3,094
Leather:			
Sole leather	do	120,742	27,727
All other	do	4,908	1,267
Leather manufactures:			
Footwear	Pair	23,836	27,025
Other leather manufactures			1,463
Other animal products and manufactures			751
GROUP 1.—VEGETABLE FOOD PRODUCTS, OILSEEDS, EXPRESSED OILS, AND BEVERAGES			
Grains and preparations of:			
Corn	Bushel	152,489	147,286
Rice, cleaned	Pound	113,996	4,458
Biscuits	do	25,814	11,201
Macaroni	do	56,367	8,428
Fodders and feeds:			
Oil cake and meal	do	653,272	12,186
All other			420
Vegetables:			
Beans, dried	Pound	127,302	5,025

TABLE No. 7.—*Merchandise brought into Porto Rico from foreign countries during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924*—Continued

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value
GROUP 1.—VEGETABLE FOOD PRODUCTS, OILSEEDS, EXPRESSED OILS AND BEVERAGES—Continued			
Vegetables—Continued.			
Potatoes and potato flour	Pound	154,880	$2,801
Garlics	do	2,491,060	138,469
Onions	do	562,985	10,412
Other fresh vegetables			2,132
Canned or prepared vegetables	Pound	36,745	6,759
Fruits and nuts:			
Fruits—			
Olives	do	49,641	21,765
Grapes	Cubic foot	1,118	2,059
Figs	Pound	79,740	10,221
Raisins	do	20,879	3,219
Other fruits	do	33,295	5,959
Preserved fruits	do	183,879	20,619
Nuts—			
Almonds	do	62,258	8,143
Other nuts	do	10,454	554
Oilseeds and vegetable oils and fats:			
Oilseeds	do	134,090	6,307
Vegetable oils—			
Olive oil	do	1,304,867	188,283
All other	do	13,535	3,166
Cocoa, tea, and spices:			
Crude cocoa and products of—			
Cocoa or cacao beans	do	146,726	11,660
Cocoa or chocolate	do	13,800	3,217
Tea	do	1,750	947
Spices—			
Red pepper, ground	do	85,898	14,375
All other	do	121,001	14,085
Molasses and confectionery:			
Molasses	Gallon	928,000	37,120
Candy or confectionery	Pound	104,223	37,256
Beverages:			
Mineral water	Gallon	7,885	5,265
Other beverages			1,539
GROUP 2.—OTHER VEGETABLE PRODUCTS, EXCEPT FIBER AND WOOD			
Rubber manufacturings and substitutes			4,554
Crude vegetable drugs and essential oils	Pound	7,049	4,477
Dyeing and tanning material:			
Mangrove bark	Ton	426	7,945
Seeds, except oil seeds	Pound	20,523	3,165
Miscellaneous vegetable products:			
Sugar cane			298,330
Other vegetable products			1,867
GROUP 3.—TEXTILES			
Cotton:			
Sewing thread, crochet, cotton			82,842
Wearing apparel			3,465
All other cotton manufacturings			47,276
Jute:			
Plain woven fabrics of jute			18,297
Jute bags	Pound	7,503,562	514,158
All other manufacturings of	do	1,861	405
Flax and hemp:			
Woven fabrics of flax			135,178
Other manufacturings of flax and hemp			1,746
Other manufacturings of vegetable fibers			1,797
Wool and hair:			
Wool and hair and manufacturings of			4,659
Silk and manufacturings of			1,577
Miscellaneous vegetable products: Fur hats	Number	1,318	2,296
GROUP 4.—WOOD AND PAPER			
Wood:			
Cabinet woods	M feet	757	44,044
Railroad ties	Number	205,569	62,504
Boards	M feet	543	19,004
All other woods			1,984
Wood furniture and other wood manufacturings			18,079
Paper, except printing paper:			
Newsprint paper	Pound	506,297	18,033
Cigarette paper	do	118,808	28,467
Other paper manufacturings			9,146
Books and other printed matter:			
Books and pamphlets	Pound	43,330	20,334
All other printed matter			7,241

TABLE No. 7.—*Merchandise brought into Porto Rico from foreign countries during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924*—Continued

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value
GROUP 5.—NONMETALLIC MINERALS			
Coal and petroleum:			
Composition coals (charcoal)			$79,100
Crude oil	Gallon	22,989,313	534,148
Gasoline	do	2,502,259	803,468
Illuminating oil	do	266,665	42,675
Cement	Ton	63,093	512,644
Glass and glassware			4,616
Clay and clay products			3,427
Other nonmetallic mineral products			6,527
GROUP 6.—ORES, METALS, AND MANUFACTURINGS, EXCEPT MACHINERY AND VEHICLES			
Iron and steel:			
Structural shapes	Pound	352,453	12,495
Tubular products			407,841
Castings and forgings	Pound	463,135	23,098
Tools			13,933
All other iron and steel manufacturings			27,321
Brass and bronze and manufactures of			4,869
All other metals and manufacturings of			5,559
GROUP 7.—MACHINERY AND VEHICLES			
Electrical machinery and apparatus			5,223
Other machinery except agricultural			5,292
Agricultural machinery			126,235
Vehicles: Autos	Number	11	11,276
GROUP 8.—CHEMICALS			
Coal and tar products, medicinals	Pound	1,976	7,200
Medical and pharmaceutical preparations			54,133
Other chemicals:			
Acids	Pound	2,704	6,151
All other chemicals	do	34,097	31,859
Pigments and paints:			
Mineral earth pigments	do	34,980	2,170
Zinc oxide	do	178,278	20,901
Other pigments and paints			931
Fertilizers:			
Nitrogenous fertilizers—			
Sodium nitrate	Ton	1,988	85,399
Other	do	1,087	12,374
Phosphates—			
Bone	do	600	21,695
Other	do	210	4,209
Potash—			
Chloride, crude	do	1,452	52,809
Sulphate, crude	do	4,222	186,552
Miscellaneous chemical products:			
Soap—			
Toilet and fancy	Pound	29,328	13,844
Other	do	2,402	178
Perfumery and toilet waters—			
Perfumery	do	21,984	13,667
Toilet waters	do	21,898	2,373
Cosmetics and toilet preparations	do	8,113	6,150
GROUP 9.—MISCELLANEOUS			
Scientific and professional instruments, apparatus, and supplies:			
Philosophical and scientific instruments			2,007
Films, positives	Linear foot	581,312	23,911
Musical instruments and parts			8,303
Toys and sporting goods	Pound	33,592	10,749
Art works:			
Statuary, regalia	do	17,810	5,805
Painting, statuary, etc	do	26,960	2,068
Miscellaneous articles:			
Matches	Gross	94,924	55,003
Personal effects			12,444
Articles imported under bond, for experimenting			40,795
Articles of American make returned to Porto Rico			944,563
Articles from the Virgin Islands free			56,163
All other articles			48,796
Total			8,779,603

Among the principal items of import from foreign countries, mention may be made of the following: Dairy products, which increased by $141,131 as compared with the figures of the preceding year; textiles by $197,901; coal and mineral oils by $304,254; cement by $254,055; and iron and steel manufactures, which increased from $50,725 in 1923 to $484,688 in 1924, or an increase of $433,963. Vegetables and vegetable products show a decrease of $298,339 under the preceding year; seeds, oilseeds, and vetetable oils decreased by $34,141; and agricultural implements and machinery by $34,757.

TABLE No. 8.—*Merchandise shipped from Porto Rico to the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924*

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value
Beeswax	Pound	28,563	$4,991
Coffee	do	318,086	71,158
Cotton and manufactures of:			
Unmanufactured cotton	do	485,953	181,832
Handkerchiefs	Dozen	300,835	311,739
Wearing apparel	Pound	1,640,768	6,819,075
Fruits:			
Grapefruits	Box	666,657	1,998,869
Oranges	do	192,363	471,416
Pineapples	Crate	270,317	811,925
All other fresh fruits	Pound	1,706,705	38,274
Prepared fruits:			
Canned grapefruits	do	3,861,555	306,429
Canned pineapples	do	1,479,706	162,493
All other fruits prepared	do	17,485	1,805
Nuts:			
Coconuts	Thousand	18,321	605,129
Other nuts	Pound	70,489	8,546
Copra	do	218,430	6,735
Hides and skins	do	560,320	69,797
Honey	do	2,763,498	176,619
Perfumery and cosmetics:			
Bay oil	do	12,157	18,599
Bay rum	Gallon	4,635	4,284
All other	Pound	9,689	1,591
Seeds:			
Annato	do	358,938	76,939
Cotton	do	53,213	10,202
All other seeds	do	27,259	5,451
Roots and plants:			
Ginger root	do	48,062	4,344
All other	do	9,185	1,021
Denatured alcohol	Gallon	326,152	124,652
Straw and manufactures of:			
Hats	Dozen	45,400	133,173
All other			11,126
Sugar and molasses:			
Sugar	Pound	743,502,157	47,792,602
Molasses	Gallon	11,067,376	427,435
Tobacco and manufactures of:			
Leaf tobacco	Pound	19,834,151	12,557,349
Scraps, stems, etc	do	3,463,897	612,233
Cigars	Thousand	175,251	5,458,880
Cigarettes	do	3,710	38,294
Vegetables			37,857
Wood and manufactures of:			
Unmanufactured wood			3,280
Manufactures of			1,678
Miscellaneous products:			
Vanilla beans	Pound	1,511	14,650
Fresh fish	do	47,912	9,152
Buttons	do	12,807	29,435
Manganese ore	Ton	4,475	115,335
Artificial pearls	Pound	4,026	11,500
Cottonseed oil	do	54,356	4,077
All other articles			19,152
Total value of Porto Rican products			79,571,123
American goods returned			1,162,060
Foreign merchandise			21,792
Total value of shipments to the United States			80,754,975

As indicated in the preceding table, tobacco and tobacco manufactures amounting to $18,666,756 were exported to the United States during the year, showing an increase of $2,287,299 over the preceding year. Sugar exports to the United States increased by 33,121,000 pounds in quantity and by $1,616,400 in value as compared with the figures of the previous year. The next largest increase during the year was in the value of the exportations of cotton manufactures to the United States, to wit, $869,257. Exportations of denatured alcohol increased $85,634; molasses, $69,783; honey, $58,523. Coffee ranks seventh among the items of export obtaining the largest increase, to wit, 246,896 pounds in quantity and $56,908 in value over and above the figures of last year. Seeds increased by $54,722.

Among other principal items of export to the United States, fruits and nuts took a decline of $720,990; hides and skins of $91,920; and cotton, unmanufactured, of $79,131.

TABLE No. 9.—*Merchandise shipped from Porto Rico to foreign countries during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924*

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value
GROUP 0.—ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT WOOL AND HAIR			
Animals:			
Bulls for breeding	Number	6	$665
Horses for breeding	do	5	600
Other horses	do	20	3,556
Other live animals			786
Meats:			
Beef	Pound	33,629	4,407
Pork—			
Fresh	do	1,997	400
Hams and shoulders	do	70,301	12,593
Bacon	do	8,869	2,127
Other pork meats	do	52,385	5,987
Sausages—			
Not canned	do	9,182	2,340
Canned	do	7,980	1,570
Other canned meats	do	10,578	1,632
Other meat products	do	24,400	2,218
Eggs in the shell	Dozen	7,380	3,078
Dairy products:			
Milk and cream—			
Condensed	Pound	8,001	1,312
Evaporated	do	28,069	3,423
Powdered	do	2,446	857
Butter	do	32,931	12,361
Cheese	do	24,732	8,077
Fish:			
Salmon—			
Canned	do	26,287	2,905
Other salmon	do	169	83
Salted and dry-cured fish	do	174,969	13,521
Other fish canned	do	22,401	2,802
Shellfish	do	552	165
Animal and fish oils, fats, and greases:			
Animal oils	do	1,021	154
Tallow, inedible	do	67,850	5,684
Lard and substitute—			
Lard	do	100,719	13,527
Lard compounds	do	211,185	27,724
Oleomargarine	do	35,055	5,555
Hides and skins:			
Hides and skins	do	370	285
Leather—			
Upper, except patent—			
Cattle	Square foot	37,060	6,724
Sheep, lamb, goat, and kid	do	12,539	2,194
Sole leather	Pound	2,997	1,013
Other leather	do	1,161	744

TABLE NO. 9.—*Merchandise shipped from Porto Rico to foreign countries during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924*—Continued

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value
GROUP 0.—ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT WOOL AND HAIR—Continued			
Leather manufactures:			
Leather footwear—			
Boots and shoes—			
Men's and boys'	Pairs	32,216	$87,718
Women's	do	101,182	161,006
Children's	do	38,865	38,763
Slippers and others	do	2,380	2,697
Other leather manufactures			1,231
Miscellaneous animal products:			
Dressed feathers and manufactures of	Pound	105	78
Other animal products	do	1,420	338
GROUP 1.—VEGETABLE FOOD PRODUCTS, OILSEEDS, EXPRESSED OILS, AND BEVERAGES			
Grains and preparations of:			
Corn	Bushel	3,498	4,801
Corn meal and flour	Barrel	6,221	29,094
Oats	Bushel	1,081	780
Oatmeal	Pound	25,012	1,528
Rice	do	394,520	18,656
Rye flour	Barrel	480	2,432
Wheat flour	do	16,434	97,916
Bread and biscuits	Pound	66,242	9,828
Macaroni	do	224,233	15,399
Other grains and preparations of			826
Fodders and feeds:			
Prepared feeds, not medicinal	Pound	134,035	3,595
All other fodders and feeds			2,757
Vegetables:			
Beans, dried	Bushel	2,209	9,097
Peas, dried	do	722	2,806
Potatoes	do	5,837	8,348
Onions	do	1,343	2,777
Other fresh vegetables	Pound	44,010	4,114
Canned vegetables	do	95,083	8,470
Pickles and sauces	do	65,396	6,575
Vinegar	Gallon	1,021	479
Other vegetable preparations	Pound	5,042	1,064
Fruits and nuts:			
Fresh fruits—			
Grapefruits	Box	591	1,852
Oranges	do	1,177	3,013
Other subtropical fruits			415
Other fresh fruits			3,848
Dried fruits	Pound	5,452	927
Canned and preserved fruits	do	52,951	6,301
Nuts—			
Peanuts	do	10,957	897
Other nuts (coconuts)	do	355,899	11,355
Oilseeds and vegetable oils and fats:			
Refined cottonseed oil	do	6,380	990
Corn oil	do	8,854	1,320
Other oils and fats	do	5,966	989
Cocoa, coffee, and spices:			
Cocoa	Pound	5,484	943
Coffee [1]	do	21,541,129	4,524,653
Spices	do	2,180	288
Sugar, sirup, honey, and confectionery:			
Sugar	do	580,340	46,085
Confectionery	do	24,707	6,043
Sirup and honey			636
Beverages:			
Malt beverages	Gallon	3,319	2,833
Fruit juices and flavoring extracts	Pound	2,883	927
All other beverages	Gallon	2,159	2,333
GROUP 2.—OTHER VEGETABLE PRODUCTS, EXCEPT FIBER AND WOOD			
Rubber:			
Rubber footwear	Pairs	19,069	16,921
Tires—			
Pneumatic cases	Number	405	4,594
Pneumatic tubes	do	635	4,580
Rubber heels and soles	Pound	2,343	1,183
Other rubber manufactures	do	3,505	2,481

[1] In this item there are included 5,682,267 pounds of coffee shipped to foreign countries via United States which heretofore were credited neither to our coffee exportations to foreign countries nor to our exportations to United States in the statistics furnished by the collector of customs.

TABLE No. 9.—*Merchandise shipped from Porto Rico to foreign countries during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924*—Continued

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value
GROUP 2.—OTHER VEGETABLE PRODUCTS, EXCEPT FIBER AND WOOD—Continued			
Naval stores, gums, and resins			$5,831
Crude drugs, essential oils, dyeing and tanning materials	Pound	1,118	2,284
Seeds for sowing	do	1,365,826	12,669
Tobacco and manufactures of:			
Tobacco leaf	do	110,502	21,099
Manufactures of—			
Cigars	Thousand	38	1,239
Cigarettes	do	4,024	11,057
Other manufactures of			1,735
Miscellaneous vegetable products:			
Cornstarch	Pound	74,553	2,976
All other starch and products			5,039
GROUP 3.—TEXTILES			
Cotton:			
Staple cotton	Pound	216,888	57,963
Cotton twine, thread, and cordage	do	980	723
Cotton cloth, duck—			
Unbleached cotton duck	Square yard	29,592	13,626
Bleached cotton duck	do	442	265
Other cotton duck	do	3,498	1,134
Cotton cloth, other—			
Unbleached cotton cloth	do	97,864	12,374
Bleached cotton cloth	do	198,119	37,710
Printed cotton cloth	do	554,308	102,122
Piece dyed cotton cloth	do	249,147	49,028
Yarn and stock dyed cotton cloth	do	143,569	24,091
Other cotton fabrics—			
Cotton blankets	Pounds	11,865	6,855
Other cotton fabrics			3,621
Cotton wearing apparel—			
Knit goods—			
Hosiery	Dozen	15,372	27,852
Underwear	do	3,784	11,878
Wearing apparel for men and boys:			
Collars and cuffs	do	213	343
Underwear, not knit	Number	12,838	4,550
Shirts	do	8,887	8,335
Other	Pound	26,638	41,507
Other wearing apparel for women			722
Handkerchiefs	Dozen	1,134	1,028
Laces and embroideries	Yard	43,734	2,685
Mattresses, quilts, and comforts	Number	2,278	4,095
Sheets and pillowcases	do	1,626	1,160
Towels and bath mats	do	10,728	1,845
All other cotton manufactures			16,665
Jute, flax, hemp, etc.:			
Bags of jute	Pound	275,572	12,635
Other jute manufactures	do	865	180
Flax manufactures	do	292	303
Cordage, except of jute	do	8,609	1,241
Straw hats	Number	52,500	16,084
Artificial silk manufactures			2,137
Other manufactures of vegetable fibers	Pound	16,134	3,315
Wool and hair and manufactures of	do	1,009	2,187
Silk and manufactures of:			
Broad silks	Yard	1,903	2,016
Silk manufactures			4,510
Miscellaneous textile products:			
Wool felt hats	Number	356	374
Other hats and caps, except straw	Pound	15,912	5,405
All other manufactures of			1,634
GROUP 4.—WOOD AND PAPER			
Unmanufactured or partly manufactured wood:			
Unmanufactured wood			3,337
Douglas-fir boards	M feet	51	2,588
Southern yellow-pine rough boards	do	449	14,992
Southern yellow pine, dressed	do	861	37,733
White-pine boards	do	84	4,037
Other lumber			5,896
Wood manufactures:			
Chairs	Number	532	1,256
Office furniture			2 060
All other manufactures of			8,192

TABLE No. 9.—*Merchandise shipped from Porto Rico to foreign countries during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924*—Continued

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value
GROUP 4.—WOOD AND PAPER—Continued			
Paper, except printed matter:			
Newsprint paper	Pound	24,577	$1,806
Book paper, not coated	do	14,574	2,191
Kraft wrapping paper	do	3,616	328
Other wrapping paper	do	53,185	3,708
Writing paper	do	10,981	2,725
Tissue crêpe paper	do	3,752	1,013
Other paper and paper products	do	73,866	13,027
Printed matter:			
Books and pamphlets	do	6,386	2,902
Other printed matter	do	6,640	3,039
GROUP 5.—NONMETALLIC MINERALS			
Coal, petroleum, and asphalt:			
Bituminous coal and coke	Ton	6,093	33,537
Gasoline and other light products	Gallon	740,825	289,411
Illuminating oil	do	22,415	4,653
Lubricating oils and greases			6,038
Manufactures of asphalt	Pound	15,000	750
Stone, sand, cement, and plasters:			
Marble manufactures	do	3,328	579
Cement	Barrel	1,205	3,530
Lime and plasters	do	5,930	10,279
All other	Pound	1,476	1,278
Glass and glass products:			
Window glass, common	do	6,283	190
Table glassware	do	2,443	452
Other glassware			1,983
Clay and clay products:			
Fire-clay bricks and refractory	Thousand	60	5,542
All other			4,086
Other nonmetallic products:			
Salt	Pound	6,723,288	25,004
All other			853
GROUP 6.—ORES, METALS, AND MANUFACTURES, EXCEPT MACHINERY AND VEHICLES			
Iron and steel:			
Bars	Pound	95,028	3,015
Iron and steel galvanized sheets	do	87,652	3,979
Welded black and galvanized pipes	do	94,190	6,499
Cast-iron pipes and fixtures	do	25,051	1,451
Nails and screws	do	83,325	4,057
Cutlery			604
Household ware, enameled, etc	Pound	75,027	10,327
Metal furniture			3,352
All other manufactures of iron and steel			706,023
Copper, brass, and bronze, and manufactures of	Pound	11,121	8,895
Tin and zinc manufactures	do	4,530	489
All other metals and manufactures of			1,188
GROUP 7.—MACHINERY AND VEHICLES			
Power-generating machinery, except electric:			
Steam engines—			
Locomotives	Number	3	16,000
Other steam engines, accessories, and parts of			2,526
Electric machinery and apparatus			9,011
Sugar machinery			34,065
All other machinery and parts			17,978
Agricultural machinery and implements			28,425
Vehicles:			
Motor trucks, except electric	Number	6	12,373
Passenger cars, except electric	do	36	36,316
Auto parts, except engines and tires	Pound	21,550	7,633
Motor boats	Number	5	1,640
Wood vessels	do	1	7,000
Other vehicles and parts of			4,901
Railway freight cars	Number	47	35,000
GROUP 8.—CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS			
Medical and pharmaceutical products			4,649
Other chemicals:			
Acids	Pound	79,044	2,996
Pure and denatured alcohol	Gallon	24,651	22,448
Except medical and pharmaceutical	Pound	48,632	4,765

TABLE No. 9.—*Merchandise shipped from Porto Rico to foreign countries during the fiscal ending June 30, 1924*—Continued

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value
GROUP 8.—CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS—Continued			
Pigments, paints and varnishes:			
Chemical pigments	Pound	6,601	$785
Paints, stain, enamels, etc	do	5,491	1,822
Miscellaneous chemical products:			
Toilet soap	do	4,450	738
Laundry soap and all other soaps	do	370,576	23,534
Toilet preparations	do	2,817	2,237
All other miscellaneous chemical preparations			1,695
GROUP 9.—MISCELLANEOUS			
Scientific and professional instruments, apparatus, and supplies:			
Motion-picture films	Linear foot	1,411,088	34,549
Other scientific instruments and apparatus			3,420
Musical instruments			801
Miscellaneous office supplies			951
Toys, athletic and sporting goods			8,207
Miscellaneous:			
Matches	Pound	2,511	546
Umbrellas	Number	314	418
Household and personal effects	Pound	34,881	9,088
All other articles			38,107
Total			7,492,364
Value of foreign merchandise reexported			33,201
Total value			7,525,565

A comparison of the figures shown in the preceding table covering the coffee exports of this year to foreign countries with those of last year indicates an increase in quantity of 4,790,380 pounds and in value of $1,350,901. In this connection, however, it must be stated that coffee shipments this year to foreign countries via United States aggregating 5,682,267 pounds valued at $1,193,276, which in the statistics furnished by the collector of customs in the past were credited neither to our exportations to foreign countries nor to our exportations to the United States, have this year been included in our coffee exports to foreign countries. Among other principal items of export to foreign countries mention may be made of the following: Cotton manufactures, which increased by $129,236; fruits and nuts, by $7,229; sugar, by $15,011; and tobacco manufactures, by $23,041.

TABLE No. 10.—*Sugar exports*

Fiscal year	Short tons	Value	Average price per ton	Fiscal year	Short tons	Value	Average price per ton
1901	68,909	$4,715,611	$68.43	1913	382,700	$26,619.158	$69.55
1902	91,912	5,890,302	64.08	1914	320,633	20,240,335	63.12
1903	113,108	7,470,122	66.04	1915	294,475	27,278,754	92.64
1904	129,647	8,690,814	67.03	1916	424,955	45,809,445	107.79
1905	135,663	11,925,804	87.90	1917	488,943	54,015,903	110.47
1906	205,277	14,184,667	69.10	1918	336,788	41,362,229	122.81
1907	204,079	14,770,683	72.37	1919	351,910	48,132,419	136.77
1908	234,607	18,690,504	76.52	1920	419,388	98,923,750	235.88
1909	244,257	18,432,446	75.46	1921	409,407	72,440,924	176.94
1910	284,522	23,545,922	82.75	1922	469,889	40,820,333	86.86
1911	322,919	24,479,346	75.81	1923	355,423	46,207,276	130.01
1912	367,145	31,544,063	85.92	1924	372,041	47,838,687	128.58

Sugar exports to the United States amounted to 371,751 short tons, valued at $47,792,602. In addition, 290 short tons, valued at $46,085, were shipped to foreign countries. These figures show an increase in quantity of 16,618 short tons and of $1,631,411 in value, as compared with the figures of the previous year.

TABLE No. 11.—*Cigars*

Fiscal year	Withdrawn for consumption	Withdrawn for export	Total output	Fiscal year	Withdrawn for consumption	Withdrawn for export	Total output
1907	74, 698, 430	132, 669, 823	207, 368, 253	1916	[1]109, 130, 296	[1]159, 248, 855	268, 379, 151
1908	76, 983, 830	103, 781, 719	180, 705, 549	1917	----------	210, 399, 365	----------
1909	84, 933, 260	140, 302, 271	225, 235, 531	1918	[1]106, 646, 685	181, 779, 519	288, 426, 204
1910	92, 700, 160	151, 724, 438	244, 424, 598	1919	[1]94, 334, 802	[1]149, 124, 690	243, 459, 492
1911	101, 064, 495	174, 743, 098	275, 807, 593	1920	98, 023, 748	223, 316, 450	321, 340, 198
1912	111, 682, 615	169, 765, 656	281, 448, 271	1921	105, 728, 125	152, 323, 916	258, 052, 041
1913	119, 038, 300	[1]165, 768, 512	284, 806, 812	1922	77, 513, 408	140, 504, 000	218, 017, 408
1914	112, 711, 543	[1]150, 363, 991	263, 075, 534	1923	[1]75, 017, 877	[1]184, 625, 596	259, 643, 473
1915	101, 423, 083	[1]174, 275, 407	275, 698, 490	1924	[1]75, 928, 681	175, 289, 000	251, 217, 681

[1] Treasury figures.

TABLE No. 12.—*Cigarettes*

Fiscal year	Withdrawn for consumption	Withdrawn for export	Total output	Fiscal year	Withdrawn for consumption	Withdrawn for export	Total output
1907	347, 722, 000	10, 460, 000	358, 182, 000	1916	[1]308, 025, 865	[1]11, 785, 430	[1]319, 811, 295
1908	354, 407, 900	11, 232, 424	365, 640, 324	1917	----------	9, 571, 250	----------
1909	365, 525, 500	11, 244, 500	376, 770, 000	1918	[1]340, 077, 040	6, 439, 600	346, 516, 640
1910	393, 844, 300	[1]13, 142, 000	406, 986, 300	1919	[1]426, 582, 000	[1]20, 111, 600	[1]446, 693, 600
1911	459, 710, 045	11, 760, 000	471, 470, 045	1920	576, 424, 970	5, 123, 850	581, 548, 820
1912	532, 431, 000	[1]11, 293, 350	[1]543, 724, 350	1921	411, 716, 960	5, 738, 000	417, 454, 960
1913	464, 861, 210	[1]8, 907, 600	[1]473, 768, 810	1922	434, 652, 520	2, 056, 000	436, 708, 520
1914	376, 695, 120	[1]6, 195, 000	[1]382, 890, 120	1923	[1]417, 306, 900	[1]2, 996, 500	420, 303, 400
1915	339, 080, 165	[1]12, 020, 750	[1]351, 100, 915	1924	[1]401, 134, 100	7, 734, 000	408, 868, 100

[1] Treasury figures.

TABLE No. 13.—*Tobacco leaf and scrap exported*

Fiscal year	Pounds	Value	Fiscal year	Pounds	Value
1907	4, 344, 659	$1, 232, 058	1916	8, 084, 914	$3, 033, 149
1908	8, 402, 286	1, 996, 055	1917	9, 408, 723	3, 850, 670
1909	4, 539, 320	1, 250, 237	1918	17, 196, 323	8, 982, 130
1910	4, 176, 172	1, 258, 317	1919	17, 859, 559	8, 420, 583
1911	4, 450, 012	1, 554, 783	1920	20, 507, 565	13, 416, 388
1912	5, 456, 751	2, 320, 130	1921	14, 667, 932	13, 568, 249
1913	8, 536, 776	3, 188, 227	1922	22, 452, 588	9, 002, 767
1914	9, 244, 490	3, 206, 610	1923	[1]19, 911, 979	[1]9, 647, 063
1915	9, 285, 333	3, 204, 423	1924	[1]23, 343, 048	13, 142, 136

[1] Treasury figures.

The exportations of unmanufactured tobacco to the United States amounted to 23,298,048 pounds, valued at $13,169,582. In addition, 110,502 pounds were shipped to foreign countries, valued at $21,099. These figures represent an increase in quantity of 3,431,069 pounds and of $3,495,073 in value, as compared with the figures of the previous year. As will be seen in the above table, this year we have exported the largest quantity of unmanufactured tobacco ever shipped from the island, and as to price we sold it this year at $0.563 per pound, or an increase of about $0.08 per pound over the price obtained last year.

TABLE No. 14.—*Coffee exports*

Fiscal year	Pounds	Value	Average price	Fiscal year	Pounds	Value	Average price
1901	12, 157, 240	$1, 678, 765	$0. 137	1913	49, 774, 197	$8, 511, 316	$0. 171
1902	26, 906, 399	3, 195, 662	. 118	1914	50, 211, 947	8, 193, 544	. 163
1903	35, 207, 139	3, 970, 574	. 112	1915	51, 125, 620	7, 082, 791	. 138
1904	34, 329, 972	3, 903, 257	. 113	1916	32, 144, 283	5, 049, 283	. 157
1905	16, 849, 739	2, 141, 009	. 127	1917	39, 615, 146	5, 892, 081	. 149
1906	28, 290, 322	3, 481, 102	. 123	1918	37, 618, 613	5, 505, 316	. 146
1907	38, 756, 750	4, 693, 004	. 121	1919	27, 897, 771	6, 065, 573	. 217
1908	35, 256, 489	4, 304, 609	. 122	1920	32, 776, 754	9, 034, 028	. 276
1909	28, 489, 236	3, 715, 744	. 130	1921	26, 731, 648	5, 352, 924	. 200
1910	45, 209, 792	5, 669, 602	. 125	1922	23, 402, 127	4, 316, 859	. 141
1911	33, 937, 021	4, 992, 779	. 147	1923	16, 821, 939	3, 188, 002	. 189
1912	40, 146, 365	6, 754, 913	. 168	1924	21, 859, 215	4, 595, 811	. 210

TABLE No. 14a.—*Coffee exports, by countries, during the fiscal years ending June 30, 1922, to June 30, 1924*

Countries	1922		1923		1924	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
United States	65, 622	$12, 793	71, 190	$14, 250	318, 086	$71, 158
Europe:						
Belgium	184, 163	34, 886	33, 026	6, 591	177, 689	36, 986
Denmark					33, 070	6, 945
France	1, 638, 536	315, 842	35, 480	6, 658	954, 112	206, 541
Germany	101, 699	18, 429	30, 060	6, 012	1, 647, 051	353, 734
Gibraltar					62, 686	13, 164
Italy	59, 933	12, 956			2, 472, 398	519, 377
Netherlands	67, 130	13, 590			607, 157	131, 701
Norway	10, 912	1, 882				
Spain	5, 368, 372	1, 051, 962	3, 633, 238	736, 988	2, 531, 726	571, 136
Sweden	194, 982	32, 856	14, 880	3, 600	193, 979	40, 739
England			380	76	5, 153	1, 082
North America:						
Canada	400	76	10, 600	2, 332		
Cuba	15, 689, 142	2, 817, 257	12, 919, 690	2, 397, 226	12, 514, 062	2, 560, 679
Virgin Islands	6, 103	1, 284	16, 717	2, 845	12, 117	2, 382
Dutch West Indies	475	117	321	54		
British West Indies	222	28	200	41	1, 000	220
Dominican Republic	2, 025	462			288, 460	71, 333
South America: Argentine Republic			10, 140	2, 125	15, 522	3, 260
Africa:						
Morocco			19, 936	3, 949	13, 229	2, 838
Canary Islands	12, 411	2, 439	26, 081	5, 255	2, 348	568
Ceuta and Melilla					9, 370	1, 968
Total	23, 402, 127	4, 316, 859	16, 821, 939	3, 188, 002	21, 859, 215	4, 595, 811

As indicated in the above tables, the total exportations of coffee from Porto Rico this year exceeded those of last year by 5,037,276 pounds in quantity and $1,407,809 in value; but, as stated in the comments made under Table No. 9, coffee shipments this year to foreign countries via United States, aggregating 5,682,267 pounds, valued at $1,193,276, which in the statistics furnished by the office of the collector of customs in the past had been credited neither to our exportations to foreign countries, nor to our exportations to the United States, have this year been included in our coffee exports to foreign countries.

TABLE No. 15.—*Value of fruit exports*

Fiscal year	Oranges	Pineapples	Canned pineapples and others	Coconuts	Grapefruits	Other fruits	Total
1901	$84,475	(1)	(1)	$8,334	(1)	$16,992	$109,801
1902	51,364	(1)	(1)	12,720	(1)	9,898	73,892
1903	230,821	(1)	(1)	326	(1)	61,956	293,103
1904	352,646	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	81,214	433,860
1905	125,422	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	130,478	255,900
1906	295,633	$27,826	$42,186	129,793	(1)	7,420	502,858
1907	469,312	64,831	63,519	174,957	$7,586	3,737	783,942
1908	630,720	172,779	98,203	206,704	44,535	11,320	1,164,261
1909	401,912	442,780	117,830	204,498	76,310	18,154	1,261,484
1910	582,716	555,044	106,587	218,870	162,749	9,851	1,635,817
1911	703,969	641,291	149,744	258,168	309,698	11,123	2,073,993
1912	584,414	684,774	258,671	308,883	525,048	15,972	2,377,762
1913	740,091	1,142,348	147,564	353,690	726,811	10,415	3,120,919
1914	752,180	1,246,001	175,534	451,882	751,769	23,537	3,400,903
1915	378,181	1,723,863	84,735	410,378	834,440	9,560	3,441,157
1916	790,797	1,176,406	122,876	413,573	837,014	14,619	3,355,285
1917	1,009,737	916,415	139,765	438,564	939,677	18,411	3,459,569
1918	1,231,551	617,496	75,216	572,600	1,120,330	11,021	3,628,214
1919	770,203	458,675	148,662	757,649	739,106	24,185	2,898,580
1920	833,575	479,461	99,172	1,142,412	1,332,742	13,568	3,890,930
1921	447,426	574,640	99,247	690,895	2,019,557	4,389	3,836,154
1922	926,329	600,514	112,909	489,657	1,102,020	115,314	3,346,743
1923	1,750,641	726,091	691,737	583,931	1,384,201	17,689	5,154,290
1924	474,429	811,925	477,028	616,484	2,000,721	59,642	4,440,229

[1] Shipments included under "Other fruits."

Shipments of grapefruit increased in quantity by 205,869 boxes and in value by $616,520; pineapples increased by 33,693 crates and $85,834; and coconuts by $32,553, over last year's figures.

Shipments of oranges this year show a decrease in quantity of 539,659 boxes and of $1,276,216 in value, and canned pineapples decreased by $214,709, as compared with last year's figures.

TABLE No. 16.—*Statement by countries of value of merchandise brought into Porto Rico from the United States and foreign countries for the past five years ending June 30, 1924*

Countries	Shipped into Porto Rico				
	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
United States	$90,724,259	$97,074,399	$57,400,028	$64,743,462	$80,590,021
Europe:					
Austria		45	3,079	12,365	19,137
Belgium	15,175	97,230	27,425	42,706	425,567
Czechoslovakia			597	2,843	1,304
Denmark	106,603	159,041	172,838	345,697	660,921
France	96,154	251,024	223,731	197,636	134,099
Germany	91,404	380,567	218,661	256,240	290,941
Italy	55,545	39,901	38,025	32,127	37,420
Hungary			54		1,499
Netherlands	216,069	430,178	258,089	282,042	440,268
Norway			2,388	4,351	4,320
Portugal					252
Spain	1,011,177	1,202,927	774,727	674,191	631,694
Sweden			54,551	17,138	30,595
Switzerland	5,477	8,334	6,626	3,972	4,746
Turkey in Europe					71
United Kingdom	356,965	879,906	325,603	531,388	565,949
Gibraltar				3,264	
Rumania				328	
Latvia				347	
North America:					
Canada	1,440,707	1,185,099	1,286,953	1,134,332	847,481
Panama	1,608	19,836	16,760	4,251	3,154
Mexico	353,785	540,176	425,843	514,582	534,148
Newfoundland	40,924	87,719	208,016	269,719	499,051
West Indies—					
British West Indies	7,870	2,849	35,294	92,061	146,822
Jamaica			4,316		
Cuba	137,011	134,666	148,790	136,541	78,198
Dominican Republic	737,683	746,531	555,969	561,259	911,689
Dutch West Indies	61,220	180,708	915,920	993,493	1,464,700
French West Indies	6,395	192	1,264	841	689
Haiti		3,270	3,439	16,527	12,757
Virgin Islands	103,083	91,104	89,234	185,533	95,266

TABLE No. 16.—*Statement by countries of value of merchandise brought into Porto Rico from the United States and foreign countries for the past five years ending June 30, 1924*—Continued

Countries	Shipped into Porto Rico				
	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
South America:					
Argentine Republic		$87,192	$7,078	$8,807	$37,856
Brazil		89,452			
Chile	$208,110	764,630	88,000	131,616	87,244
Colombia	20,920	13,773	914	949	5,345
Peru	1,551	939	1,448		
Ecuador		4,292	2,247	615	
Uruguay	48,097	248,390	328,460	311,401	280,267
Venezuela	62,185	126,290	126,824	78,812	40,049
British Guiana					1,139
Central America:					
Nicaragua					1,755
Asia:					
China	1,069	5,683			
British India	426,590	598,610	385,674	330,248	471,511
Japan	2,449	1,425		2,076	3,313
Palestine				831	
Philippine Islands				185	
Africa:					
British South Africa			256		
Canary Islands	48,449	23,327	36,028	19,729	8,386
Total	96,388,534	105,479,703	64,175,149	71,944,505	89,369,624

TABLE No. 17.—*Statement, by countries, of value of merchandise exported from Porto Rico to the United States and foreign countries for the past five years ending June 30, 1924*

Countries	Shipped from Porto Rico				
	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
United States	$133,207,508	$105,388,327	$66,229,771	$77,007,257	$80,754,975
Europe:					
Belgium		20,975	35,172	6,714	37,011
Denmark					6,945
France	312,927	269,917	320,466	7,586	205,910
Germany		95,108	37,310	8,402	369,491
Italy		1,712	13,041		519,377
Gibraltar	8,562	11,057	1,736		13,164
Netherlands		1,744	13,896	288	132,989
Spain	1,594,763	714,652	1,085,309	772,841	589,034
Norway			1,882		
Sweden		15,138	32,856	3,600	40,739
United Kingdom	258,232	57,360	10,563	76	1,082
North America:					
Canada	2,549	92	2,879		30,582
Panama	310	2,076	3,857	1,580	1,038
West Indies—					
British	14,754	15,935	25,979	31,559	82,515
Cuba	7,263,756	4,375,011	2,870,977	2,503,333	2,736,492
Virgin Islands	336,609	525,400	376,047	464,559	610,274
Dutch	178,103	94,436	306,336	461,184	678,982
French	34,382	4,076	2,552	1,301	1,833
Haiti	2,879	13,859	1,342	447	3,411
Dominican Republic	7,411,010	2,467,448	773,406	881,259	1,269,835
Mexico				21	
South America:					
Colombia	58,868	104,168	1,000	2,400	210
Argentine Republic				2,125	3,260
Venezuela	88,315	85,255	20,660	83,081	144,582
Dutch Guiana	970				7,000
Peru	825				
Africa:					
Canary Islands	36,127	14,930	5,513	9,931	1,802
Morocco				3,949	2,838
Ceuta and Melilla					1,968
Total	150,811,449	112,278,575	72,172,571	82,253,472	88,247,339
Foreign merchandise to foreign countries				39,578	33,201
Grand total	150,811,449	112,278,575	72,172,571	82,293,050	88,280,540

TABLE No. 18.—*Exports of sugar, cigars and coffee*

Fiscal year	Sugar	Cigars	Coffee	Fiscal year	Sugar	Cigars	Coffee
1901	$4,715,611	$306,115	$1,678,765	1913	$26,619,158	$5,800,686	$8,511,316
1902	5,890,302	1,549,235	3,195,662	1914	20,240,335	5,597,276	8,193,544
1903	7,470,122	1,753,795	3,970,574	1915	27,278,754	6,016,122	7,082,791
1904	8,690,814	1,460,496	3,903,257	1916	45,809,445	5,531,535	5,049,283
1905	11,925,804	2,152,051	2,141,009	1917	54,015,903	7,843,010	5,892,081
1906	14,184,667	3,074,226	3,481,102	1918	41,362,229	7,134,693	5,505,316
1907	14,770,682	4,241,410	4,693,004	1919	48,132,419	6,657,522	6,065,573
1908	18,690,504	3,414,140	4,304,609	1920	98,923,750	----------	9,034,028
1909	18,432,446	4,383,893	3,715,744	1921	72,440,924	8,103,601	5,352,924
1910	23,545,922	4,488,030	5,669,602	1922	40,820,333	6,279,054	4,316,859
1911	24,479,346	5,355,223	4,992,779	1923	46,207,276	6,911,510	3,188,002
1912	31,544,063	5,086,711	6,754,913	1924	47,838,687	5,460,119	4,595,811

TABLE No. 19.—*Summary by years*

Fiscal year	Imports	Exports	Total	Fiscal year	Imports	Exports	Total
1901	$8,918,136	$8,583,967	$17,502,103	1913	$36,900,062	$49,103,565	$86,003,627
1902	13,209,610	12,433,956	25,643,566	1914	36,406,787	43,102,762	79,509,549
1903	14,449,286	15,089,079	29,538,365	1915	33,884,296	49,356,907	83,241,203
1904	13,169,029	16,265,903	29,434,932	1916	38,951,156	66,731,573	105,682,729
1905	16,536,259	18,709,565	35,245,824	1917	53,545,224	80,970,917	134,516,141
1906	21,827,665	23,257,530	45,085,195	1918	63,389,282	74,294,022	137,683,304
1907	29,267,172	26,996,300	56,263,472	1919	62,400,360	79,496,040	141,896,400
1908	25,825,665	30,644,490	56,470,155	1920	96,388,534	150,811,449	247,199,983
1909	26,544,326	30,391,225	56,935,551	1921	105,479,703	112,278,575	217,758,278
1910	30,634,855	37,960,219	68,595,074	1922	64,175,149	72,172,571	136,347,720
1911	38,786,997	39,918,367	78,705,364	1923	71,944,505	82,293,050	154,237,555
1912	42,972,891	49,705,413	92,678,304	1924	89,369,624	88,280,540	177,650,164

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The work of the public service commission of Porto Rico increases in volume and importance each year. The year under review has been the most active since the organization of the commission. Thirty-eight regular meetings and five public hearings were held, besides numerous hearings before the secretary and the counsel of the commission. Over 100 applications for certificates of convenience and necessity were filed during the year. Twenty-four franchises were enacted by the commission and approved by the governor; 7 of these were water grants for city purposes, 3 electric plants and distributing systems, 2 lighterage service, 2 bulkhead and warehouses, 1 pipe line, and 2 for industrial purposes.

Much time was given to city transportation, and some improvement is already apparent; but further investigation and more stringent regulation is evidently required.

The commission was required to secure the services of an expert accountant in connection with investigations regarding public utilities and to examine accounts and reports. The work is progressing, but much yet remains to be done. To accurately determine the value of the property of a public service corporation is necessary as a basis for fixing rates. It is found that this requires time and the most careful and intensive investigation.

SUPPLY COMMITTEE AND BUREAU OF SUPPLIES, PRINTING AND TRANSPORTATION

The supply committee is the governing body in matters pertaining to the purchase of supplies and materials for the insular government. The committee as at present constituted is composed of the executive secretary of Porto Rico as exofficio chairman, the auditor, the attorney general, the commissioner of the interior, and the commissioner of health. The chief of the bureau of supplies, printing, and transportation acts as the secretary of the committee. All purchases involving an amount of $300 or more, are subject to public calls for bids, and contracts therefor are awarded by the committee to the lowest or most advantageous bidder. During the year the committee held 45 meetings, adopted 395 resolutions, and awarded 438 contracts.

The importance of the bureau of supplies, printing, and transportation, which is the centralized purchasing agency for all the departments and offices of the insular government, has reached its highest level since its foundation during the fiscal year 1923–24. All its activities have been conducted efficiently and under modern business methods. Thirteen thousand one hundred and twenty-eight requisitions were received from the departments and government offices, as against 10,722 requisitions last year. The most remarkable feature for the year was a large increase of 34.31 per cent in the total volume of business handled, which amounted to $3,689,890.72, while last year it amounted to $2,747,261.53, or an increase this year of $942,629.19.

The total purchases for the year amounted to $1,800,501.56, an increase of $482,891.74 over the preceding year.

The supply division made purchases from merchants doing business in Porto Rico of construction materials, provisions, dry goods, machinery, and supplies valued at $1,100,879.96, or $322,038.54 more than last year, an increase of 41.35 per cent. Purchases made through the New York office from merchants in the United States amounted to $673,788.72, an increase of $148,963.72, or 28.38 per cent.

Total sales made to the various departments and government offices amounted to $1,828,337.58. As sales made during last year amounted to $1,384,446.43, there has been an increase of $443,891.15, or 32.06 per cent, during this year.

Stationery and supplies sold during the year from the stock of the bureau amounted to $106,749.23. This is an increase over the last year of $18,022.48, or 20.31 per cent.

The printing division has improved its equipment with a view of promoting efficiency and diminishing the cost of printing works by saving laborers' time.

Work was undergone on 3,865 printing jobs as against 3,110 last year. There has been an increase in the net output of the printing division of 32.75 per cent. It amounted this year to $97,489.71 and last year to $73,439.35, or an increase of $24,050.36. The printing of the laws of 1923, also those of 1924, the decisions of the supreme court, volumes in English as well as in Spanish, opinions of the attorney general, and the publication of the Porto Rico School Review, the Revista de Agricultura, and the Journal of the Insular Experiment Station, were among the important works done during the year.

The printing division has also rendered its service to a number of Federal offices and has printed regularly Monthly Climatological Data for the United States Weather Bureau at San Juan, P. R.

The service of transportation for Government officials is rendered by the transportation division. Nine automobiles are in the service of this division. These automobiles made 792 trips with a running of 188,340 kilometers, and public cars were hired for 23 trips, a total of 815 trips for the year. This means an increase of 196 trips and 37,960 kilometers more than last year. The charges to the departments and offices of the government for this running, amounted to $22,898.55, or an average cost of 12.16 cents per kilometer. The average cost last year was 13.92 cents per kilometer; therefore, a reduction in cost of 1.76 cent per kilometer has taken place this year.

It is gratifying to report that the Legislature of Porto Rico, at its regular session of 1923, passed a joint resolution increasing the working capital fund of the bureau of supplies, printing, and transportation from $25,000 to $100,000. This wise measure has enabled this bureau to meet promptly its obligations with merchants in Porto Rico and the United States without the difficulties encountered in past years.

MUNICIPALITIES

There are 76 municipalities in Porto Rico.

The principal town in each municipal district is the administrative center from which its municipal government exercises the powers and control therein vested by enactments of the Legislative Assembly of Porto Rico. These governments are autonomous, under and within the limits prescribed by the "municipal law" approved July 31, 1919, and subsequently amended, the chief officials thereof (the municipal assembly and the mayor) being elected by the people of the respective municipalities and the subordinates being appointed by those so elected.

Each municipal government organization has at its head a mayor (alcalde), who is the chief executive officer and the representative of the community before the courts and the insular government. His powers and duties embrace the approval, publication, and execution of ordinances, his action upon such ordinances being final, except upon those relating to sanitary matters and loans.

The mayor, with the consent of the municipal assembly, appoints the chiefs of the various municipal departments, and these, in turn, appoint their respective personnel, the mayor having the power to dismiss all municipal officers and employees for just cause. The mayor may be impeached and removed from office by the Governor of Porto Rico.

The local legislative power is conferred by law upon a body existing in each municipality, known as the municipal assembly, which, in municipalities of Class I, is composed of 11 members; in municipalities of Class II, of 9 members; and in municipalities of Class III, of 7 members.

The mayor, as well as the members of the municipal assembly, is elected for a term of four years by the people of the respective communities at general elections held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

The heads of the several departments of the local governments are a secretary, a treasurer, an auditor, a director of municipal charities, a school director, and a director of public works.

For the purpose of reducing public expenditures in municipalities of Class III, the mayor has charge of municipal public works.

The municipal governments derive their revenue principally from the proportion of the general property tax of the island assigned to them by law. From this tax the central government, by which it is collected, retains but 20 per cent in municipalities of Class I and 10 per cent in municipalities of Classes II and III to cover the cost of collection and places the remainder at the disposition of the municipalities, 25 per cent being assigned to school purposes and 75 per cent to general purposes.

Municipal governments are also authorized by act of the legislative assembly to impose and collect certain local taxes on their own account and use the proceeds from this source for general and specific purposes prescribed by the same authority.

The financial condition of the 75 municipal governments at the close of the fiscal year 1923–24 was, in general, most satisfactory, having derived the following revenue during that period:

Property taxes	$2, 873, 035. 44
Other taxes	458, 777. 87
Operation of public utilities	488, 324. 62
Use of municipal property	208, 329. 48
Other receipts	285, 655. 35
Miscellaneous receipts	155, 339. 55
Repayments	15, 648. 11
Incidentals	28, 756. 05
Total	4, 513, 866. 47

The total amount expended by the municipalities of the island for all works during the year 1923–24, according to approved estimates, was $3,814,255.82.

The total net indebtedness of the municipalities at the close of the fiscal year 1923–24 was $16,421,571.81, distributed as follows:

Bonded indebtedness	$14, 482, 500. 00
Promissory notes indebtedness	45, 666. 67
To insular government	776, 622. 01
Other indebtedness	1, 116, 783. 13
Total	16, 421, 571. 81

The outstanding feature reflecting municipal activities during the last few years has been the issue of bonds aggregating $14,758,500 as shown in the accompanying statement.

The above sum has been distributed as follows and shows the percentage of the amounts appropriated for each item compared with the total of said issues:

Purposes	Amount appropriated	Percentage
Construction of waterwork systems	$4,713,086.97	32
Construction of sewerage systems	1,375,200.00	9
Construction of school buildings and parks (urban zone)	2,088,316.41	14
Construction of school buildings and parks (rural zone)	510,745.09	3
Purchase of school supplies and equipment	29,793.50	----------
Construction of hospitals	635,112.37	4
Construction of markets and slaughter houses	254,100.00	2
Construction and reconstruction of municipal roads	1,098,299.81	7
Construction of electric-light plants	600,916.00	4
Construction of city halls	387,700.00	3
Construction of cemeteries	96,581.82	1
Construction and reconstruction of streets and plazas	975,065.00	7
Construction of workingmen's settlement	39,000.00	----------
Municipal pharmacies	2,000.00	----------
Construction of municipal jails	34,300.00	----------
Purchase of land for agricultural farmers	10,000.00	----------
Purchase of land for the erection of villages	10,000.00	----------
Construction of crematories for the incineration of garbage	50,000.00	----------
Installation of public lavatories	50,000.00	----------
Other improvements and services not included in this list	60,729.88	----------
Payment of funded indebtedness	1,216,206.27	8
Other indebtedness	10,015.65	----------
Plans and specifications of the works and all legal and necessary expenses in connection with the bond issues, and incidental expenses	509,331.23	3
Total	14,758,500.00	97
The combined amounts of the items which do not show a percentage represent 3 per cent o the total of bond issues	----------	3
Total	----------	100

LEGISLATION

At the commencement of the fiscal year under review, the second regular session of the tenth legislature was still going on. Reference was made in my previous report to the most important legislation enacted during the entire session, as well as during the special session which was called immediately after the termination of the regular session to consider most important matters that had not been acted upon when the legislature adjourned sine die on July 24, 1923.

Another special session was called to convene on June 11, 1924, which lasted until June 21; 15 acts and 3 joint resolutions were passed and approved by the governor. Those of the greatest importance may be briefly mentioned as follows:

(1) Amendments to the election and registration law making it possible for a candidate to appear on two or more tickets for the same office; increasing the number of signatures for the nomination of candidates by petition; prohibiting the adoption by any political party of a name or emblem, either in whole or in part, which has been used or adopted by another political party, and various other amendments of minor importance.

(2) An act amending the municipal law.

(3) Amendments to the law reorganizing the University of Porto Rico.

(4) An act providing for the payment of taxes under protest.

(5) Amendments to the excise tax law.

(6) A more drastic law prohibiting the carrying of arms.

(7) An act creating the School of Tropical Medicine of the University of Porto Rico under the auspices of Columbia University.

A complete list of all the laws passed during the second regular session and the two special sessions of the tenth legislature is published in Appendix I, Exhibit A, of this report.

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATIONS

Formal proclamations were promulgated in the form of administrative bulletins as follows:

No. 241, August 3, 1923: Death of Warren G. Harding, President of the United States.

No. 242, August 6, 1923: Funeral ceremonies and interment of Warren G. Harding, late President of the United States.

No. 243, August 11, 1923: Calling an extraordinary session of the legislature.

No. 244, August 22, 1923: Amending the call of the extraordinary session of the legislature, specifying additional matters for the consideration of the legislature.

No. 245, September 10, 1923: Appealing for contributions to assist the American Red Cross in raising funds to help the sufferers who were victims of the earthquake in Japan.

No. 246, September 17, 1923: Executive order fixing per diem allowance to officials and employees of the insular government.

No. 247, October 24, 1923: Education week.

No. 248, November 1, 1923: Government automobiles; assignment and regulation of.

No. 249, November 12, 1923: Thanksgiving Day for 1923.

No. 250, December 7, 1923: Harding memorial week.

No. 251, January 12, 1924: Death of Hon. J. W. Bonner, treasurer of Porto Rico.

No. 252, January 22, 1924: Law and order Sunday (January 27, 1924).

No. 253, February 5, 1924: Death of Woodrow Wilson, ex-President of the United States.

No. 254, February 20, 1924: Registration days, 1924.

No. 255, March 14, 1924: De Hostos memorial week (March 23 to March 29, 1924).

No. 256, March 25, 1924: Red Cross week (March 30 to April 6, 1924).

No. 257, March 26, 1924: Bird day (April 11, 1924).

No. 258, April 8, 1924: Additional registration days, 1924.

No. 259, April 22, 1924: Amending executive order dated September 17, 1923, fixing per diem allowance to officials and employees of the insular government.

No. 260, May 1, 1924: Boys' week (May 18 to 24, 1924).

No. 261, June 4, 1924: Calling an extraordinary session of the legislature.

EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY

During the fiscal year 1923–24, the governor received 318 petitions for clemency.

The following statement shows the number of petitions received and the action taken thereon:

Applications for clemency granted:		
Full pardons	6	
Conditional pardons	8	
Paroles	3	
Sentences commuted	1	
Civil rights restored	24	
		42
Applications denied after investigation and consideration	204	
Applications filed without consideration	47	
Cases in which term expired during investigation and consideration	17	
Applications pending	8	
		276
In all		318

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The fine record made by the department of justice for the year ending June 30, 1923, has been even excelled by the record for the year under review. There is perhaps no function of government that is a better test of governmental capacity and efficiency than the administration of justice. Certainly there is no function of greater importance and responsibility. If crime is not promptly met with its appropriate penalty, if courts are dilatory and the officers indifferent, if juries do not do their duty, the people lose confidence and the last appeal accorded them for the protection of life and and property and for the assertion of their just rights seems lost. Judged by this test, Porto Rico may with confidence invite comparison with any of the States. The record of promptness, fairness, and efficiency shown by the department itself, and by judges, juries, fiscals, and other officers of the law is in every way creditable and satisfactory.

During the year ending June 30, 1924, 206 opinions were rendered by the attorney general. The number rendered the preceding year was 98. These opinions are rendered by reference of the governor to the heads of departments, to municipal officers, and the various other boards and branches of the government. They are made of record, are published, and are of importance for reference and precedent.

There were 635 internal-revenue cases reviewed, 294 bonds examined, 17 irrigation contracts and 95 land cases passed upon; 33 investigations as to the conduct of public officers were also made.

At the close of the preceding fiscal year there were 263 cases pending in the supreme court. During the year under review 565 new cases were docketed. Of these 209 were criminal appeals and 277 were civil appeals. The supreme court decided 619 of the 828 cases before it, leaving pending at the close of the year 209 cases. This shows a reduction of pending cases of about one-fourth. It is evident that the judges worked to the limit of human capacity.

During the year 5,550 civil cases were presented before the district courts, a decrease of about 1,000 below those presented the previous year; 7,445 cases were pending at the commencement of the year, so that there were 12,995 cases before the district courts for trial. Of these the courts disposed of 5,941, an increase over the preceding year of 518 cases.

At the commencement of the year there were pending in the municipal courts 5,840 civil cases; 5,153 new cases were docketed during the year. Of these 7,721 were disposed of, leaving pending only 3,232, or a reduction of nearly 2,000 cases. Only 184 of the 7,721 cases tried were appealed.

There were 327 cases pending and 150 new cases brought during the year which were placed in the hands of the attorney general; 174 were determined during the year. Many of the cases are very important and involve tests of the constitutionality of laws, especially the taxing and revenue laws. Millions of dollars of taxes and revenue due the government are thus contested to the great and continued embarrassment of the government.

On June 30, 1923, there were pending before the district courts 515 cases of a criminal nature. Of these 228 were felonies. During

the year 760 new cases were presented, making a total of 988. The courts disposed of 814 of these cases. 428 were convicted, 234 were dismissed, and 21 transferred. The percentage of convictions was 77, which is higher than is shown by any State of the Union.

The number of misdemeanors presented to the district courts was 696, of which 651 were disposed of during the year. In 474 cases, convictions were secured; 80 were acquitted. The proportion of convictions was 88 per cent.

The number of criminal charges including both felonies and misdemeanors presented during the year in the municipal courts was 50,560. Of these 49,619 were disposed of, resulting in 33,641 convictions, and 9,344 acquittals. The proportion of convictions was 79 per cent.

In the justice of the peace courts 9,232 cases of violations of statutes and ordinances were presented and of these 9,159 were disposed of, leaving pending undisposed of only 73.

Prosecutions in the courts for carrying concealed weapons were especially vigorous with good results. In the district, municipal, and justice of the peace courts there were altogether 2,858 cases of this kind tried, resulting in 2,575 convictions and only 260 acquittals, or over 90 per cent of convictions. A new law was passed by the last legislature which imposes much more severe penalties than the old law. It is believed that a vigorous enforcement of the new law will materially lessen the evil results of carrying concealed weapons.

PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT

The concurrent jurisdiction of the insular courts and the Federal court to try prohibition cases under the Volstead Act has been effective in Porto Rico since November, 1922. From that date to June 30, 1923, a period of eight months, there were presented to the insular courts 1,283 cases of violation of the act. The number of cases greatly increased during the year ending June 30, 1924; 4,170 cases were tried in the insular courts, resulting in 3,595 convictions, 361 acquittals, and 214 dismissals; 670 illicit stills were captured and destroyed; and 23,670 liters of liquor confiscated. It is evident that the cooperation of the insular officers with the Federal authorities in the enforcement of the act is real and effective.

PENAL INSTITUTIONS

The total number of prisoners in the penal institutions of the island at the close of the year was 1,602. Of these, 1,497 are serving sentences and 105 are awaiting trial. Of those serving sentences, 504 are for felonies, 746 misdemeanors, and 247 are juvenile delinquents. During the year the inmates worked 66,276 days, or an average of 5,523 days per month, in building and repairing the insular roads.

Two grades were added to the classes in the reform school during the year, so that the inmates may now complete the full eight grades. Besides the school course, manual training, agricultural work, shoemaking, tailoring, and other trades are taught.

The work of the reform school is satisfactory, but it is insufficient and should be enlarged.

The number of prisoners in the penitentiary and district jails at the close of the year was 1,354, an increase of 56 over the preceding year; 452 commitments were for burglary, 195 for assault and battery, 130 for murder, and 130 for homicide. There were 44 women prisoners most of whom had been convicted of minor offenses.

The sum of $7,578 was paid prisoners for work done in the shops and outside. In addition $3,313 was paid them by the department of the interior for work done on the roads. The department of sanitation also paid them for work done $2,363. This money may be disposed of in part by the prisoners while in confinement for their personal use, part is given to their families, and the remainder is delivered to them upon their discharge.

A system of schools is maintained in the prisons to teach the inmates to read and write and to give them the rudiments of an elementary education; 1,306 were enrolled and 380 completed the full course of study during the year; 784 lectures were delivered on various subjects. Many trades are taught with satisfactory results.

The attorney general reported to the governor upon 263 applications for pardon; 18 were favorably recommended and granted; 24 recommendations for the restoration of civil and political rights were also made; 26 men and 2 women are now serving their terms under parole. Of these only 1 was returned for violation of his parole.

Appropriations were made for four new courthouses located at Mayaguez, Ponce, Guayama, Humacao, and Aguadilla, at a cost of $50,000 each. Sites have been selected and plans drawn and construction will soon be commenced.

An appropriation has also been made for a new penitentiary building. A site has been secured, and plans are being prepared. It will answer a long-felt need.

REVISION AND CODIFICATION OF THE LAWS

The necessity of a revision and codification of the laws of Porto Rico has long been recognized. The legislature made provision for a commission to direct the work and to secure the service of an expert who should have immediate charge and direction of the revision. The services of Clinton O. Bunn, Esq., who was probably the person best qualified in the United States, were secured as such director. He entered upon his work with great interest and enthusiasm, and up to the close of the year commendable progress has been made. What has occurred since July 1, 1924, will be a proper subject of comment in the next annual report.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

The year under review has been one of great activity and progress in the department of health. The reorganization made effective during the year has proven all and more than was anticipated. The extension of the work into new fields of welfare and sanitation has demonstrated its necessity and beneficial effects. The already established work of the department has been greatly strengthened and extended.

During the year the bureau of vital statistics was reorganized and enlarged. The work is now on a basis which compares favorably with that of the States.

Within the year ending June 30, 1924, 51,722 births were registered, constituting a birth rate of 37.4 per thousand of population; 1,374 more births were registered than during the previous year.

The number of deaths registered was 25,886, or a little more than one-half the number of births; a net increase, on this basis, of 21,836 in the population.

The general mortality rate for the year under review was reduced from 21.1, the rate of the year before, to a death rate of 18.7 per thousand. This was a decrease of 2,647 deaths, and a reduction of the rate of mortality of 2.4 per thousand in a single year. This is the lowest death rate recorded, with one exception, since 1888.

In 1902, soon after the American occupation, the birth rate and death rate were approximately the same, 26 per thousand. During the period of 24 years following, the birth rate increased to 37 and the death rate was reduced to 18. When, at the commencement of this period, the existing burdens of ignorance, poverty, and inherited infirmities are considered, the progress which has been made toward better conditions is a just source of pride.

With respect to age, 6,642 children less than 1 year of age died during the year. The mortality of children and adults from 1 to 2 years of age was 2,788; from 2 to 5, 2,290; from 5 to 10, 1,039; from 10 to 20, 1,714; from 20 to 80, 10,542; from 80 to 90, 600; from 90 to 100, 226; and over 100, 44.

Eleven thousand seven hundred and twenty deaths occurred among children under 5 years of age. This is 45.3 per cent of the general mortality. The 6,642 who were under 1 year of age constituted 25.6 per cent of all the deaths in Porto Rico.

When it is understood that most of these deaths of children are the result of preventable causes, we may realize the full measure of our responsibility for such lamentable conditions. The encouraging phase of the situation lies in the fact that we know that well-directed efforts to remove those preventable causes are bringing actual ascertainable improvement as humanitarian work is increasing in the island. All the available forces of organized society should be brought to bear on this problem when the need is so great and intelligent effort is so effective. That a large part of the beneficent results so far referred to may be attributed to the work which is being done by the insular department of health is shown by the fact that in almost exact proportion to the increase and extension of its work the percentage of infant mortality has decreased. The rate per thousand of deaths under 1 year of age in 1920–21 was 162, in 1921–22 was 152, in 1922–23 was 143, and in 1923–24 was 128.

The decrease from 162 to 128 per cent, being a reduction in the percentage of 34 in three years, considering the limited resources available, is certainly remarkable. The decrease from 143 to 128 made during the last year, or a reduction in the percentage of 15 in a single year, shows what may be accomplished with a qualified and devoted personnel and improved and effective methods.

With respect to diseases, the largest mortalities recorded during the year were:

Tuberculosis	2,834
Pneumonia	964
Malaria	959
Uncinariasis (hookworm)	737
Nephritis (chronic)	380
Typhoid	295
Cerebral hemorrhage	279
Meningitis	225
Diphtheria	83

No deaths are recorded from smallpox, scarlet fever, cholera, typhus, yellow fever, or the bubonic plague.

UNCINARIASIS

As stated in the report of last year, an intensive campaign for the control of uncinariasis, or the "hookworm" disease, as it is called, is under way in Porto Rico and is a most important feature of the public-health program. The most important development of the year was the creation of a bureau of uncinariasis. By an arrangement made with the international health board of the Rockefeller Foundation its director for Porto Rico was made the first chief of the bureau. By this arrangement the work in the island is unified, and the insular government and the foundation have coordinated all work in the eradication of this disease under a single supervising and directing agency.

Practically the whole of rural Porto Rico was infected when the work of eradication began. Now, about one-fifth of that area has been covered, and the work will go forward until the whole of the island has been covered. Last year 1,022 deaths from this cause were recorded. This year the mortality has been reduced to 737. Since 1921, 364,029 treatments have been given to 115,486 persons, or over one-tenth of the rural population of the island. Out of 36,104 persons treated during the past year, 34,513 were declared cured. The legislature has increased the annual appropriation of the insular government for the prosecution of this work from $30,000 to $60,000, and the Rockefeller Foundation has agreed to double its work in the island. The municipalities in which the work is progressing are active in the support of the campaigns, and greatly aid the department in the conduct of the work.

It is perhaps unnecessary to repeat that uncinariasis can be entirely cured except in its last stages, and that further extension of the contagion is stayed by the plans adopted and so far carried out with entire success. To carry out and complete the work every person in the territory covered must be examined, every person found suffering from the disease must be treated and cured, and sanitary measures must then be taken to prevent its recurrence and spread. The treatment of individual cases outside the territory under treatment does little good; the whole population in a given area must be swept clear of the disease and protective measures taken to prevent its recurrence.

Eighty per cent of the population of the island is rural, and 90 per cent of this rural population were infected before this campaign was begun. The effect of the disease on the individual is to

lower physical vigor and produce anemia with attendant lassitude and debility. This, of course, results in a great reduction in the working capacity of a people who must depend on work for a living. It also reduces the resistive capacity and renders its victims more susceptible to the acquisition of other and more deadly diseases. There is no way of stamping out the disease but by a general, sweeping attack such as is being made. When the campaign is fully completed and the Territory entirely covered, the further prevention and cure of individual cases will be comparatively easy.

It is apparent that there is no more imperative duty which the government must perform than to devote its utmost efforts to the complete eradication of this disease. The result of intelligent work work is shown to be certain of success, and the reward will be a strengthened, more intelligent, and happier people.

MALARIA

The number of deaths from malaria reported during the present year was 959. The number as now reported for the previous year was 1,185, being a reduction of 226 within the year. In the work of reducing the ravages of this disease, as in that of uncinariasis, the Rockefeller Foundation is cooperating with the insular government.

The principal work now in progress is making a survey of localities from which cases of malaria have been reported so as to determine accurately the cause and to determine what measures of prevention and control are needed. To drain the swamps and lowlands which are found to be the breeding places of the mosquito which carries malaria, to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water, and to treat pools which can not be drained, and thus to remove as far as possible the causes of the disease, will command the attention of those who are engaged in this work.

Besides this, the bureau of transmissible diseases also sends members of its staff to any locality when an outbreak occurs, who take charge of the cases and institute measures of control. Their work in this respect has been remarkably successful. In every case the disease has been suppressed, medical treatment given the sick, the causes removed, and sanitary measures to prevent a recurrence taken. In instances where several hundred cases were reported, not a single death occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis leads in the grim catalogue of mortality. Its importance brought about the creation of a separate bureau devoted to the work of its extinction. Several clinics and dispensaries were opened during the year, new hospitals were built, increased, and improved appliances secured, and the work is being prosecuted on a scale never before possible. Unfortunately the progress of the work of prevention and extinction has not yet succeeded in stopping the increase of the disease. But it is expected that increased activities and facilities, the cooperation of other agencies and the extension of operations will enable the department within a comparatively short time to stay the progress and then to diminish the prevalence of the disease and the number of its victims both in number and percentage.

The number of recorded deaths from tuberculosis during the year 1922–23 was 2,697. The number for 1923–24 was 2,834. This was an increase during the year of 137, probably fully as great in proportion as our increase of population.

With an ideal climate never subject to extremes of heat or cold, with an atmosphere energized and purified by the trade winds gently blowing almost all the year, with sun and shade, altitude and location available for every desire and adaptation, it seems difficult to understand why this dread disease has year by year increased its ravages in Porto Rico. The causes of this condition, however, are disclosed upon investigation.

There exists in Porto Rico a congested population, the crowding of large families into small unventilated rooms, general poverty, the prevalent use of poor food, constitutional debility engendered by other diseases, ignorance of the rules of hygiene and of disease prevention, lack of sanitary appliances and sanitary measures, few hospitals and most of those poorly sustained—all these conditions existing for years have bred the disease and spread its contagion with its inevitable results throughout the island.

It is important always to remember that tuberculosis is a transmissible disease and that so far as known it can not be acquired without contact with a person already a victim. The separation of those suffering from the disease from those who have not acquired it is necessary to prevent infection, and if the isolation is complete the contagion can not spread. The cure of the disease is possible, but must be secured under the most favorable conditions. Prevention is an absolute obstacle to the spread of the disease. To remove the causes is the problem for solution. How extensive and fundamental this is may be understood by a consideration of the causes enumerated. If ignorance and poverty could be eradicated, if we could isolate and hospitalize all those now suffering from the disease, there would be no doubt of its early extermination. But these effective and certain remedies are not within our reach. At best only progress in that direction can be made. How nearly we may approach success will depend on the extent of our means and the persistence and intelligence of our efforts.

The work of prevention is being prosecuted by the government to the limit of its resources. A campaign of education of the people has been inaugurated by the department of health, which it is hoped will spread knowledge of the disease and how to escape acquiring it, throughout the island. In the schools, by motion pictures, by circulars and posters, by articles published in the press, by open clinics, by personal visits and public lectures, and by every other means available, information of the danger of contagion and means of escaping its acquisition are being made available to the people. To extend and develop this work until it shall cover the whole island, while evidently a hard task, is the purpose of the department.

The work of isolation and hospitalization has also been prosecuted to the limit of the means available. The sanitarium at Rio Piedras has been improved and enlarged. A preventorium to care for 150 children is being added. Many municipalities are building or have in contemplation tubercular hospitals. But this work is necessarily expensive, and progress, because of our limited resources, unfortunately will be slow.

OTHER HEALTH ACTIVITIES

The treatment of cases of leprosy in the leper colony is being continued with as satisfactory results as could be expected under the circumstances. The new insular leper hospital and grounds will soon be completed and the colony removed to the new location. Forty acres of land, well located, with buildings and appliances on modern approved plans will furnish a beautiful home for the colony where the best results in treatment can be secured.

Special attention to diseases of children is being given by the department. The large mortality in this class of diseases requires wise and intensive work. The work has been carefully planned and a new bureau created to carry the plans into effect.

Epidemic attacks of typhoid fever took place in several towns during the year. All these had their origin in contaminated water supplies. In these outbreaks the department of health took charge at once upon being notified. Emergency hospitals were established, equipment and medicine provided, and when necessary a chlorine plant established while the epidemic lasted. The insular government is cooperating with the municipalities all over the island to obtain for them pure water supplies which will prevent such outbreaks in the future.

A bureau has been created to deal especially with the treatment and prevention of venereal diseases. An open clinic and dispensary has been established in San Juan. During that part of the year the clinic was in operation 702 patients were examined and treated. A permanent service is evidently needed and will be maintained.

A bureau has been created known as the bureau of plague prevention. A modern, well-equipped building has been secured provided with a laboratory and all necessary appliances. Measures to secure immediate information as to any threatened plague invasion, and to be prepared to take prompt and effective measures to control any such attack are being taken.

At present the pharmacy of the department is a very important part of its work. It fills all prescriptions, distributes all medicines, surgical materials, and biological products to all the activities of the Government. During the year 12,261 prescriptions were filled, 558,000 medical supplies were issued, and 23,000 biological requisites supplied.

The biological laboratory is also a most important branch of the work of the department. Here are made all kinds of analyses for the officers of the Government and practicing physicians to determine or confirm the diagnoses of different diseases. Great activity was displayed during the year. The number of specimens examined and reported upon reached the surprising total of 19,004. The number passed on during the preceding year was 9,900. All diseases are included in these examinations.

The chemical laboratory is also an important and necessary branch of the work of the department. Here are made analyses of water supplies to determine impurities, and examinations of foods, drugs, and milk for adulterations. Examinations for milk adulterations have been especially important and have resulted in reducing the percentage of adulterated milk sold to the people from 20.95, the percentage of the preceding year, to 14.22. In cooperation with the

foods and drugs inspection service it is planned to reduce the percentage to the lowest possible amount.

During the year under review the bureau of sanitary engineering approved plans submitted to the number of 6,522. These plans included the construction and repairs of buildings, urbanization, water supply systems, sewerage systems, sanitary installations, and miscellaneous other items requiring examination and approval. This work is constantly growing in extent and importance.

The general sanitary work of the department has been greatly increased in amount and improved in character. It includes oversight and superintendence of all the municipal activities of the island which affect the health of the people. Included are aqueducts, sewerage, cemeteries, markets, slaughterhouses, hospitals, asylums, jails, schoolhouses, dairies, bakeries, groceries, hotels and restaurants, factories, etc. A constant inspection service is maintained. During the year six municipal dependencies and 69 public establishments were closed by order of the department.

The foods and drugs inspection service was greatly enlarged during the year. The island was divided into districts with an inspector with assistants in charge of each. As a result of this work it was necessary to order the destruction of about 200,000 pounds of food products which were found unfit for consumption.

The number of patients admitted to the hospital for the insane during the year was 132. The number discharged as cured was 126. Land for the location near Rio Piedras of the new asylum was purchased, and plans approved for the buildings. In every way the new site is desirable, and the proposed buildings are to be modern and equal in character to the best of the kind now being erected anywhere.

The number of inmates of the boys' charity school was 399. The number in the girls' charity school was 295. Instruction is carried through the eighth grade in both schools. In the girls' school there is also a special two years' commercial course. In the boys' school instruction and drill in military tactics is given and the boys are organized into four battalions with officers, band, etc. Manual training is also given in mechanical drawing, carpentry, building construction, tailoring, shoemaking, plumbing, etc. A music school is also maintained for special instruction.

The blind asylum had 99 inmates at the close of the year. During the year 80 were discharged as cured.

There were 35 pupils in the school for the blind. The work has been unusually interesting and successful during the year. The new building for the school is nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy during the current year.

One of the most important bureaus created as part of the reorganization and extension of the work of the department was the bureau of social welfare. Its purposes as stated in the statute were: "For the prevention of infantile mortality, maternal mortality, establishment of prenatal clinics, clinics for children, school of dental clinics, medical inspection of schools, employment of visiting nurses and other necessary personnel, purchase of equipment and supplies, help of indigent persons outside of government institutions."

In accordance with these declared purposes the work was inaugurated with the organization of the following services: (1) Prenatal

clinics; (2) babies' clinics; (3) service of visiting nurses; (4) social service.

Three centers were established for prenatal clinics in San Juan and vicinity, and later centers were established in seven other municipalities. Each center is in charge of a physician, a number of visiting nurses, and at least one social worker. The service was in operation only a few months before the close of the year.

The number of cases attended by the agency of social welfare in San Juan and Santurce up to the close of the year were:

Care given babies and children, 3,967; instructions to mothers and children, 5,095; visits of investigation, 5,481; clinics, new patients, 2,014; number children medically treated, 1,737.

The work was placed well under way at Ponce and was well established in other towns. It is the purpose of the department to extend the service to all the municipalities of the island.

The number of regularly employed visiting nurses has been increased from 19 to 27. A school of instruction for training nurses has been established, and the number of applicants at the close of the year was 70. The nursing service and school has been placed in charge of an experienced head who directs and inspects the work.

The social service work has also been instituted under the charge of an experienced head from the States. Up to the close of the year considerable progress had been made in organizing and establishing the work. Five social workers are now engaged in the service. A course of instruction for prospective social workers has also been instituted.

INSULAR BOARD OF HEALTH

The insular board of health is composed of the following members: Four physicians, one lawyer, one chemical or pharmaceutical expert, and one civil and sanitary engineer, who are appointed by the governor by and with the consent of the senate. The functions of this board are to act as an advisory and legislative body in respect to all matters pertaining to the public health, and to prescribe all sanitary rules, regulations, and ordinances which shall govern in all the municipalities of Porto Rico with a view to preventing and suppressing contagious and epidemic diseases.

During the year this board held 12 regular meetings and 16 special meetings to act upon matters submitted to its consideration.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

The board of medical examiners, which has been in existence since 1903, was reorganized by an act of the legislature of Porto Rico, approved July 30, 1923. This act was later amended during the extraordinary session of 1924. The board is actually composed of seven physicians who must have had at least five years' practice in the profession in the island. Not more than four of these physicians shall be residents of the city of San Juan. The board holds examinations and is authorized to issue licenses for the practice of the professions of medicine and surgery, optometry, osteopathy, midwifery, nursing, and minor surgery.

Physicians are not admitted to the practice of the profession in the island except through a previous examination before the board,

and candidates for examination must submit to the board a diploma from a Class A medical college or university. By the act of the legislature of Porto Rico, referred to above, the board of medical examiners was authorized to establish relations of reciprocal exemption from examination direct with those States of the Union whose boards require the highest degree of professional training. The board has recently entered into a reciprocity agreement with the medical authorities of the State of New York by virtue of which doctors are admitted to the practice of the profession in Porto Rico without examination upon presentation to the medical examining board of their college or university diploma, Class A, and their license issued to them by the State board after the passage of a successful examination, and in exchange for this privilege Porto Rican doctors are allowed to practice their profession in the State of New York upon compliance with similar requirements.

During the year the board of medical examiners issued 11 licenses for the practice of medicine and surgery, 1 for the practice of optometry, 8 for midwifering, 5 for minor surgery, and 31 for the practice of nursing.

BOARD OF PHARMACY

In pursuance of the provisions of law governing the matter, examinations have been held by this board at various times during the year for candidates desiring to engage in the practice of pharmacy in the island. Of such candidates, 18 passed the examinations and were duly licensed. As in previous years, the board has endeavored to secure strict compliance with the law by reporting all infringements to the proper judicial authorities.

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS

During the year this board twice held examinations for dentists who had applied for licenses to practice their profession in Porto Rico. There were in all eight of these applicants. They all passed the tests set by the board, which thereupon issued them licenses. The board also reported to the corresponding prosecuting attorneys a number of violations of the dental law for proper action.

EDUCATION

The largest item in our annual budget is the appropriation for education. It constitutes almost one-half of the total appropriations for all the expenditures of the government. That this large proportion of expenditures is fully justified will hardly be questioned by those who have knowledge of conditions existing in the island. With one-half the entire population totally illiterate, with tens of thousands of children who are not yet provided with any school privileges whatever, with more than one-half the schools conducted in rented rooms unfitted for the purpose, with too few teachers and most of those we have inadequately prepared, and with insufficient books and apparatus, it has been fully realized that to better these conditions should be the supreme task of the government.

While it might appear that with such conditions existing progress would seem doubtful, it may be shown that in no other direction is

the outlook more hopeful. At the commencement of the American occupancy there was practically no public school system in existence. Between 80 and 90 per cent of the people could not read or write; 90 per cent of the population was rural, and there were no rural schools whatever. By 1910, under American administration, 950 rural schools were established. By 1920 the number was increased to 1,700. Now over 2,000 rural schools are in operation. The percentage of illiteracy has been reduced almost one-half since 1900.

Our present needs are great and our means small, but the desire of the people for the education of their children, which amounts almost to a passionate demand, and the response is so earnest and heartfelt on the part of those in authority or engaged in the work that the outlook is bright and the future seems assured. The rate of progress that has been already made may well invite comparison with that of any other state or country.

The number of children of legal school age in Porto Rico is 438,743. The number of compulsory school age is 209,220. The number of pupils enrolled in the schools supported by public funds was 227,267, while 6,158 attended private schools; 233,325 were thus provided with schools, an increase of about 2,000 over the preceding year; 205,478 children of school age were not enrolled in any school. Of all persons enrolled, 55 per cent were in the rural schools, and the remainder are in the urban schools, the university, etc. There were 96 schoolhouses erected during the year. Of these 50 were urban buildings and 46 rural.

There were 4,725 teachers employed, of whom 1,405 were men and 3,320 women.

Agriculture was taught in 1,889 schools. Instruction was carried directly or indirectly to 25,302 gardens; 57 exhibitions were held, and 3,588 conferences. There were in existence 1,532 parents' associations, which held 4,680 meetings. Teachers made 92,651 visits to parents' homes.

The school chapters of the Junior Red Cross enrolled during the year 140,228 members. The total receipts were $29,523, and the total expenditures $26,912.

The total per capita expenditures per pupil enrolled was $18.52.

Forty-one continuation schools were maintained, with 8,419 students. Four new high schools were established, making the total in the island 16; 223 high-school teachers were employed, and 5,523 students enrolled.

Eighty-nine new school libraries were opened during the year; 29 secondary libraries, 212 graded libraries, and 265 rural libraries were maintained. Great interest in these school libraries is manifested, and the need for rooms and for books is very great.

The teaching of the manual arts is carried on in all schools during the eighth grade and first high-school years. Great difficulty exists in securing competent teachers, but the interest shown in the work and the character of the work done by the students is remarkable. Courses were held in 58 municipalities with an enrollment of 3,835 pupils.

Home economics occupies an important part of the school curriculum. Four semesters of 10 hours per week are required of all girls. They are required to learn to make their own clothing, hats, etc. Food selection, preparation, service, and marketing are taught.

Home hygiene and care of the sick are emphasized; 58 of the 75 municipalities are giving home economics work, and the number of students already enrolled are 4,399. Many of the municipalities have built model home-economic cottages, modern in every respect and furnished throughout. All household problems are thus demonstrated under the most favorable conditions. Each school has its home-economics club and special subjects are assigned for their consideration. Among those considered was "Simplified dressing of schoolgirls." So great was the influence of this that every schoolgirl in Porto Rico now appears daily in a school uniform, consisting of a white middy blouse, dark skirt, and tie. Other subjects considered have been "Health of the schoolgirl"; "Welfare work among school children"; "Beautification of school and home surroundings." The influence of this work on the whole people of the island has been far-reaching and of immense benefit. In no other part of school work has there been more interest taken or more progress made.

Eighty-four instructors in needlework, drawn work, and embroidery have been employed to give special instruction in these subjects. The number of pupils enrolled was 6,060. These courses are designed to prepare those taking them to earn an independent livelihood through ability to do expert work in native handwork for which the Porto Rican women have such special capacity and for which there is such a general demand. The course covers two years and was framed after conferences with manufacturers and dealers in that kind of material and includes all points of construction and decoration required.

There are 45 special teachers of agriculture and one general superintendent. One or two of these teachers are assigned to each school district. These teachers cooperate with the agricultural agents of the Department of Agriculture in inculcating modern agricultural ideas; they encourage the "Home garden" movement; they help in the organization of parents' associations; they hold agricultural meetings and exhibitions. The general superintendent visits all the towns and schools and stimulates interest and activity. He is now preparing a complete course of study in nature and agriculture covering all the grades.

The training of teachers in the service is given special attention by the district supervisors, by means of model classes taught, monthly meetings held, and especial lessons in English given.

The number of Porto Rican students who are pursuing studies in continental United States is continually increasing; 486 students are now enrolled in the principal colleges and universities. Medicine, law, engineering, agriculture, and other special courses are chosen. Almost all parts of the island are represented, and the records made are generally most creditable.

ILLITERACY

The battleground against illiteracy is located in the rural portion of the island. The interior is mountainous, there are no railroads, and highways are all too few. As fast as possible roads are being extended that are passable, but they are very costly and progress is slow. There is very little chance for a school that is not located on

a public road. The interior sections have very few improvements, the land is not of great value, and there is so little value in the property that taxes can not support either roads or schools. The general government does all it can to provide both roads and schools, but it has so many demands to answer that its aid is not enough. It must be through schools that illiteracy will be reduced. Fortunately, the children in even remote regions where no schools are as yet available are in some way at least learning to read and write, so that the next generation will not be so largely illiterate as is the present. It is impossible to exactly determine the present percentage of illiteracy, but it is being materially reduced each year. There are very few illiterates among the children and the reduction in the cities and towns is all that could be expected.

The legislature appropriated $25,000 for night schools for adults. It was expected that this would provide for 100, but with additional aid from the municipalities 132 were maintained. The average number belonging was 3,524. The work has been very successful, but necessarily is limited to the towns.

Provision for a noon lunch is absolutely indispensable in Porto Rico, especially in the rural communities. The amount spent during the year for providing these lunches was nearly $100,000. The number of children fed in the lunch rooms during the year was 13,891, and the average cost per lunch was 4⅔ cents.

UNIVERSITY

A complete reorganization of the university was effected during the year. A new board of trustees was created, consisting of the commissioner of education, the president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives, being the ex officio members, and six being appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The university had never had an independent head until the reorganization was effected, the commissioner of education being chancellor ex officio. Under the new plan a chancellor is selected by the board of trustees. The university has been very fortunate in securing Dr. Thomas Eliot Benner to serve as its new head.

In the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, located at Mayaguez, the year was one of substantial progress. The corps of instructors was increased, as was the number of students in attendance. Three new departments were created, agricultural economics, forestry, and veterinary science. The interest and support given the college were manifestly increased during the year, all of which has resulted in a large increase in attendance during the current year.

The insular normal school for the preparation of teachers is now made a part of the university and is known as the college of education. The course is not a college course and does not lead to a degree, but is arranged to best answer the great demands for teachers prepared to teach the public schools of the island. It has been necessary in order to supply that demand to provide two, three, and four years' courses, which are attended by an increasingly large number of students. The university is rendering Porto Rico a most important and even an indispensable service in yearly sending out as large a quota as possible of professionally trained teachers. As rapidly as

possible the entrance requirements will be increased and the courses of study strengthened.

The departments of the university now established are: College of agriculture and mechanic arts; college of education; college of law; college of liberal arts; college of pharmacy.

A rural course, a high school, an elementary practice school, and a summer school are also maintained.

The total number of students enrolled in all departments was 2,038.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

The Spanish and English volumes added during the year aggregated 1,719. In addition the library received a large number of American and foreign newspapers and magazines. The periodicals from abroad have in particular become a source of attraction to foreigners, many of them being now as a result regular users of the library.

The traveling library service, which is regarded as perhaps the most important branch of this institution, has been improved by the introduction of up-to-date equipment and expanded by the addition of new collections. Its activities have been freely made use of, among others, by the different irrigation services, the normal department of the university, and various schools throughout the island.

Further to broaden the scope of its usefulness by reaching the largest possible number of people, no matter how widely scattered, the library has continued to pay special attention to its parcel-post service. Persistent advertising of how this feature of the work of the library may be availed of and of its latest accessions has been rewarded by an increased circulation outside San Juan and such encouraging signs as requests for books from distant rural wards.

The younger people of San Juan have continued to be drawn to the library by the story-telling classes, which have been in charge of a teacher who has made this work her specialty. These classes have been very useful in creating the habit of using the library by those who attended them.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924, applications for examination were received from 2,628 persons, which is larger than the number recorded for any previous year. Of the number who filed applications, 2,333 competed in examinations, and 1,357, or 58.17 per cent, secured eligible ratings.

The commission also examined 569 persons for the United States Civil Service Commission. Of these, 528 took examinations for appointment in Porto Rico, of whom 328, or 62.12 per cent, secured eligible ratings, and 41 took examinations for positions in Washington.

Appointments made as a result of examinations numbered 369, as compared with 272 for the previous year. This increase was due to the larger number of positions in the classified service provided for in the budget.

During the year a retirement law was passed, providing for the retirement with life pension of officials and employees of the government by reason of age or length of service. Such legislation

was recommended by the commission in 1920. To insure the success of the system, the law will probably have to be amended, but as no pensions will be granted before July 1, 1925, there will be ample time for careful study of the matter.

As has been previously recommended, there is need to amend and supplement the civil service law, particularly with a view to eliminating provisions which permit the appointment of persons not upon the basis of merit as demonstrated in competition. Such provisions, not being in harmony with the underlying principles of sound civil service administration, as was to be expected, have in practice afforded opportunity for making influence bear on appointments and in some instances have worked injustice on employees of many years' service.

During the year the General Government has extended to Porto Rico provisions for determining eligibility for appointment of the postmasters within the island by civil service examinations. Hereafter appointments will be made as a result of such examinations. These examinations will be conducted by the Civil Service Commission of Porto Rico under rules provided by the Civil Service Commission at Washington. Appointments will be made as a result of such examinations by the Post Office Department at Washington. The fitness and merit of the applicant will alone determine availability for appointment. Those holding positions whose records merit it will be reappointed at the expiration of their terms without examination.

AGRICULTURE

The amount provided in the budget for the department of agriculture and labor for the fiscal year 1923–24 was $497,807. This amount was twice that provided by the budget for the preceding year. It is probable that, measured by the accomplishments of the year, the activities and progress of the work of the department has likewise doubled. Potentially the increase has been much greater. It has been a year of reorganization and extension. Much of the work instituted has but started. Most of it is promising.

The division of agricultural development, known as the extension service, measured by the amount appropriated for its support, is the most important in the department; $201,612.50 was provided in the budget, and $50,000 additional was appropriated at the special session of 1923. The division has been entirely reorganized and its scope of operation greatly extended. The field force consists of 4 district inspectors, 15 deputy inspectors, and 35 agricultural agents. Practical demonstrations were conducted by the field men to aid in the control of insect pests and plant diseases, to aid in the fertilization of crops, in varietal selection and resistance to plant disease, in crop rotation, home mixing of fertilizers, fruit and coffee pruning, testing of seeds and plants under different conditions, planting minor crops, tobacco seed beds, and the feeding of cattle and other livestock. An earnest effort was made to aid the farmer with practical demonstrations that would help him to make progress and encourage his efforts.

Demonstrations on the home mixing of fertilizers has resulted in many instances in a saving of $8 or $10 per ton to the farmer; 78,857 tons were imported at a cost of $2,900,000 during the year. Many

other demonstrations have resulted in large savings and great improvement in farm management, 476 were finished during the year and the work is continually in progress.

Model or demonstration farms are a new activity of the department. The purpose is to place in different localities object lessons of improved and successful farm management. The farmer can there see the various farm activities carried on, and can see demonstrated the value of improved methods. Great interest among the farmers has been already manifested in these farms, and demands have come from nearly every part of the island for their establishment. A model poultry farm has been secured and well established near San Juan. Three model general farms have been purchased, buildings built, livestock placed, and many varieties of fruit and crops planted. Lands for three more farms have been secured and improvements and development will be made at once. Others will be secured as rapidly as suitable locations in the different parts of the island can be secured. Lands for such farms are being donated by the municipalities, and the cooperation of officials and private landowners has been hearty and encouraging. It is hoped that these demonstration farms can be established in all important localities in the island. It is expected that they will be largely self-supporting.

The policy of these demonstration or model farms so far adopted is to accomplish as far as possible the following objects:

1. The practical demonstration of approved methods in (*a*) agronomy; (*b*) animal husbandry; (*c*) fruit growing.
2. To provide a supply (at nominal rate or gratis) of seeds, roots, grafted trees, etc., to the neighboring farmers.
3. To provide and maintain breeding animals and poultry of selected breeds for the improvement of the livestock.
4. Cooperation with rural schools.

A plant propagation station has been secured and established for the purpose of larger propagation of approved plants, such as avocados, mangoes, citrous fruits, forage plants, root crops, etc., for distribution to the model farms and for sale directly to farmers and fruit growers. Here also are being tested various crops to determine their value for use in the island. The testing of ornamental trees, shrubs, vines, etc., is also being made to advise the use of those best adapted to our climate and soil.

A plant for the demonstration of secondary products has been established at Mayaguez and is proving of great interest and value. Two dehydrating apparatus have been installed and other necessary appliances secured. Demonstrations were made as to the utilizing of the by-products of the fruit industry. Special attention was given to the waste of oranges, grapefruit, limes, lemons, coconuts, etc. Oils, cattle feeds, jellies, and other useful products from waste grains, vegetables, and fruits of the island were produced. The total number of human foods, foods for swine, cattle, and poultry, and different varieties of fertilizers produced during the eight months of the operation of this plant was 255. Some of these are very promising and profitable.

SUGAR

The total production of sugar ending June 30, 1924, was 447,000 tons. The amount produced in 1923 was 379,000 tons; thus the

production for the year was an increase of 68,000 tons. The largest production of the island was in 1921, when it reached 491,000 tons. This amount dropped to 405,000 tons in 1922. In 1923 production still further decreased to 379,000 tons.

The cause of the decrease in production was most largely due to fluctuation in price. In 1921 the price of sugar rapidly declined from 22 cents to 3.5 cents per pound. Many planters were ruined and the uncertain prices which prevailed for some time discouraged production. Prices, however, improved in 1923 and have remained at remunerative rates since. The price for some time has exceeded 6 cents per pound and remains at about that amount at present. This has resulted in stimulating new plantings and greater care in selection and cultivation. It is estimated that the crop of 1925 at present growing will exceed 500,000 tons. If present prices are maintained the value of the crop will exceed $60,000,000.

As sugar produced in Porto Rico is admitted to the markets of the United States free of duty it enjoys a great advantage in that regard over sugar produced in Cuba, Santo Domingo, and other foreign countries. Owing to the agitation for a reduction of the tariff rates on sugar in the United States the Tariff Commission conducted an investigation in 1923 as to the cost of producing cane sugar in Cuba, Hawaii, Porto Rico, and Louisiana. The cost of producing beet sugar in the United States was also investigated. A commission of experts visited Porto Rico and made careful inquiry as to all matters affecting the cost of production in the island. Their report is of great interest and importance, not only to the sugar producers but to all the people of Porto Rico as sugar is the most important industry of the island.

It was found by this commission that, based on the product of 1922, the cost of producing sugar in Cuba was 2.14 cents per pound; that in Hawaii it was 4.01 cents per pound; that in Porto Rico it was 4.04 cents per pound, and that in Louisiana it was 4.85 cents per pound. The cost of producing beet sugar in the United States was reported as 5.02 cents per pound.

The cost of production varies in all these places from year to year, but it may be considered that the cost of production as stated above fairly represents the average relative cost of production in these various places. The difference is caused by varieties of soil, climatic conditions, the cost of labor, and intelligence in management.

It will be seen that Cuba has a marked and decided advantage compared with Porto Rico and the others, and as that advantage is principally due to soil and climate, it is not likely to be overcome. In Porto Rico that advantage is neutralized by the United States tariff which Cuba is compelled to pay when selling in that market and which Porto Rico is not compelled to pay. The amount of duty which Cuba must pay approximates the advantage which she enjoys in the cost of production; so that under existing conditions Porto Rico and Cuba enter the American market on fairly equal terms. However, it is fully realized that the abolishment of the duty on sugar by the United States would mean disaster to the sugar industry in Porto Rico, and any reduction of the tariff rates would to that extent injure the industry in the island.

It is a source of pride to Porto Ricans that in so far as intelligent management and progressive methods are concerned Porto Rico is

acknowledged as superior. Other countries are coming here to learn the best varieties of cane, the best methods of cultivation, and the most successful methods of management. Great credit is due for this to the officials of the government and the heads of the centrals who are so harmoniously cooperating in the work of improvement and progress.

COFFEE

The production of coffee in the island for the year 1923–24 was 21,859,000 pounds. The value of the product marketed abroad was $4,595,000, a marked increase over the preceding year.

The average price per pound received during the year 1922–23 was 18 cents. The average price for the year ending June 30, 1924, was 21 cents.

The estimates for the present year are for both an increased production and an increased price, so that the coffee producers of the island may look for a satisfactory and prosperous year.

The present condition of coffee in the markets of the world is very interesting and important to the producers in Porto Rico. The present world's requirements of coffee is estimated at 22,000,000 bags, or about 2,850,000,000 pounds. Approximately one-half the world's requirements is absorbed by the United States. This would amount to 11,000,000 bags, or about 1,475,000,000 pounds. Before the war Europe consumed more coffee than the United States. Since the war the United States has consumed more coffee than all Europe. The consumption of coffee by Europe has increased more rapidly since the close of the war than in the United States. In the year 1920–21 deliveries were made to the United States of 9,701,000 bags, and to Europe was sent 6,397,000 bags. In the year 1923–24 deliveries were made to the United States of 10,758,000 bags, while Europe received 9,133,000 bags. It would appear that Europe will consume more coffee than the United States as soon as it more nearly recovers from the effects of the war. It is also evident that the demand for coffee in the United States will continually increase, and that it will ever remain the largest coffee consuming nation in the world.

The present world's supply of coffee, including the present crop is estimated at only 19,500,000 bags. This is 2,500,000 bags, or about 325,000,000 pounds, less than the world's requirements, and many coffee experts think that the deficit will be found to be greater rather than less than the estimate. This deficit is the result of a failure of other coffee-producing countries to provide their accustomed quota for the market by reason of conditions which can not here be reviewed. The shortage became apparent last January, and as a consequence there has been a continual increase in the price of coffee since that time. It is very nearly the war peak at present and may equal or exceed it before the close of the year. The best grades of coffee are now selling in New York at retail for 55 or more cents per pound.

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During the year careful investigation has been made as to marketing conditions, with the purpose of gathering information as to how best to obtain a constant demand for the Porto Rican product and to secure the price which the high quality of that product merits. It is well known and recognized by coffee experts that Porto Rican coffee is among the best grades produced in the world. It is certain now that wherever Porto Rican coffee is placed on the market it will command a price among the best offerings made. It has been assumed that Porto Rican coffee held a disadvantageous place in the United States market. But in reality that is not the case. Porto Rican coffee is now selling in the New York market at equal and at times better prices than those quoted for Bogota and Medellin classes, which are considered the best of South and Central America. While the amount of Porto Rican coffee sold during the year was small, the price paid in the United States was larger than that sold in other countries, being nearly 22 cents per pound on the average. The average price on the amount sold to foreign countries was only about 21 cents. So it can not be said that the United States market does not fully recognize the merit of the Porto Rican product.

It would seem also true that the United States will not have to be induced by advertising or propaganda to recognize the superior quality of our coffee. The large purchasers, the wholesale buyers, are ready and willing to take our entire product and double it if we can double production, at a price always above the average and among the highest paid for the best grades of coffee placed on the market. It would seem that our offerings have been too desultory and too small. There has been no assurance of a supply for large contracts. We could make shipments at this time to the United States of thousands of pounds at 30 cents or better if we could make deliveries. We could make contracts for yearly deliveries if we could give assurance of substantial amounts.

For the present, at least, there will be little or no general demand in the United States for Porto Rican coffee as such. It is not known in the retail trade and probably will not be for years. The only way in which it could be thus sold would be to prepare it especially for the retail trade and educate the people to like it and buy it as a high-priced, extra-quality special brand. This would require the expenditure of enormous amounts in preparing the product and in advertising. Most of the coffee sold at retail in the United States is sold as special and trade-mark brands, and these are mostly blends consisting chiefly of Brazilian coffee, with enough Colombian, Porto Rican, or other high quality varieties to make it attractive.

The fact that Porto Rican coffee can not without great difficulty be placed on the retail market in the United States is not so discouraging a feature as it would appear. The demand exists, nevertheless, and it may be made constant and increased to the extent of absorbing all our product at highly remunerative prices. It is to the large companies selling on the market their special trade-mark and highly advertised blends and who must always purchase for their special blends large quantities of high-grade coffee that we may look for a constant and highly satisfactory market. We have the coffee of the required quality and only need extend our production and arrange better marketing facilities to hold permanently a very advantageous position. All admit that coffee production can be almost indefinitely extended in Porto Rico. Marketing facilities can be improved by cooperation among the producers so that they are not required to place their product individually on the market at different times to any person who will buy and at any price which he may offer. But by joining together in sectional groups they can make contracts for years in advance, if desired, for either a fixed price that will be advantageous, or agree to accept the market price for the highest quality when deliveries are made.

The principal requisites are assurance of sufficiently large amounts to be worth while and the guarantee of certain delivery at fixed times. If these requisites can be met there is every assurance of highly advantageous marketing arrangements in the United States markets. It may be added that there will probably never be a better time to make such arrangements than the present.

While production in the island was largely increased during the year, we are told by the commissioner that this increase was due not so much to better farming practices as to an unusually favorable season. The effect, however, of a good crop and a good price has greatly encouraged the coffee growers and has stimulated them to greater interest in the improvement of their plantations and in their methods of culture.

It is to induce and assist in securing greater production that the activities of the department of agriculture and labor have been chiefly directed during the year under review. What is most needed is to secure larger production on farms already devoted to coffee production and to extend the area to lands not so used. The department has carried on experiments and demonstrations on its model farms and on the plantations of the farmers on seed beds, pruning, fertilizing, the eradication of disease and insects, and in securing better shade-tree protection. This will help in securing greater production on plantations which are now not producing what ought to be obtained, and will also lead, it is hoped, to an extension of the coffee-growing area in the island.

There is no other activity of Porto Rico that deserves more encouragement and help than coffee production, and the attitude of the government and the people toward the industry is to assist in every way to make it successful and remunerative.

The long period of depression through which the coffee planters have passed has brought many of them deeply in debt, and it is evident that it will require courage and persistent effort to relieve them of the burden. But there is no doubt but it can be done. The extension of the Federal farm loan act to Porto Rico has been and

will continue to be a great boon to our farmers. It will very largely reduce their interest rates on long-time loans, and will enable them year by year to reduce their indebtedness and finally relieve them altogether of its burden. The extension of the Federal intermediate credits act to Porto Rico, which is expected soon, will also be a great help. The high character of the coffee producers is an assurance of progress and accomplishment to the full measure of the opportunity which is theirs.

TOBACCO

There has been some improvement in the condition of the tobacco industry over the preceding year. The amount of leaf tobacco sold during the year 1923 was 19,588,000 pounds. In 1924 this was increased to 23,408,000 pounds. The value of the leaf tobacco sold in 1923 was $9,462,000. In 1924 it had increased to $13,190,000. In 1922 the number of persons engaged in preparing the leaf tobacco for market was 11,962. In 1924 the number was 13,337. In 1922 the number of persons engaged in the manufacture of cigars and cigarettes was 5,455. In 1924 the number was 6,294. The total output of cigars and cigarettes manufactured in the island in 1923 was 679,946,000. In 1924 it declined to 643,284,000. The value of cigars and cigarettes exported in 1923 was $6,929,000, and in 1924 it was but $5,509,000. The decrease in the value of the fully manufactured product in the form of cigars and cigarettes exported as compared with the preceding year was $1,420,000.

This decrease in the amount of manufactured cigars and cigarettes is unfortunate, for, with an overcrowded population and a large number of unemployed laborers always available, this important and valuable product of the island should be fully prepared for market here instead of being taken to the States or elsewhere for final marketing, when it is considered that labor can be secured here at lower wages and just as efficient in character as can be secured in the States. It is obvious that the causes for such a condition can be and should be removed. Considerable attention has been given during the year to this problem and legislation intended to help the situation will be presented to the next legislature.

The raising and preparation of tobacco for market is by no means an easy or simple process. The tobacco plant requires careful planting, intensive cultivation, and the curing process needs expert attention on the part of the farmer. A good soil especially adapted to the plant is required and expensive fertilization is needed. Great care must be taken to protect the plant from insect pests. All this requires knowledge, experience, and good judgment on the part of the farmer.

While progress is shown in the production of tobacco in the island, present conditions are far from satisfactory. Tobacco is second only to sugar in the value of its annual crop, and it is certain that the amount produced could be greatly enlarged and the price to the farmer greatly increased. The farmer in many instances is not using the best methods. His seed beds are not properly disinfected; the mole cricket and other insects are not promptly exterminated; cultivation is not thorough and timely; the importance and best methods of curing are not well understood. It is to cure these and

other like defects that the department has most largely directed its efforts. Greater interest is already manifested and improvement is already shown. It is the purpose of the department to carry on an extensive campaign for improvement in these regards by demonstration work, by extension workers, and by the examples shown on our model farms.

The financial condition of the tobacco farmers is also a discouraging feature of the situation. The tobacco market is never stable. Its fluctuations have induced the habit of making advance contracts for delivery at prices which are often far below the market when deliveries are made. These contracts are often otherwise disadvantageous in their terms to the growers. Advance payments for future delivery and loans for fertilizers and other expenditures are made at large rates of interest. In this manner the growers become largely in debt and, finding it difficult to extricate themselves, mortgage their lands and sometimes their crops to save themselves from disaster.

The Federal farm loan act is an advantage in this respect and gives the farmers opportunity for obtaining long-time loans on their lands at far lower rates than they previously had paid. It is hoped that the Federal intermediate credit act will soon be extended to Porto Rico. This will enable the tobacco farmers to obtain short-time credit on their crops at lower rates than are at present obtainable.

Improvement in growing, curing, and management, better marketing facilities, and better credit arrangements are apparently necessary for the development and extension of tobacco production in Porto Rico. These essentials, it would appear, can best be secured by cooperative effort among all those who are engaged in tobacco-production and its manufacture. The tobacco growers and manufacturers of Porto Rico may thus take full advantage of the opportunity which is theirs to place Porto Rico among the first as a tobacco-producing country, so far at least as quality is concerned. There is no tobacco in the world better than the Porto Rican product. It is easy to make that apparent by united effort and wise management. The world's markets are always open for the best, and Porto Rico can furnish the best to the profit and prosperity of its producers.

FRUITS

The year 1923–24 has been an unfortunate year for the growers of fruit. An unstable market and ruinous competition were the principal causes. Much of the fruit of fine quality went to waste, as it did not pay to pick it. In some orchards the quality of the fruit was impaired because of the scab. Pineapple growing was profitable during the year and the area of plantings has been greatly extended. The quality of the product was exceptionally good.

While the year has been a discouraging one to the fruit growers, it has been an exceedingly active one for the department on matters relating to the development and extension of the production of fruit in the island. The insular experiment station is making careful investigation regarding the many cultural and disease problems affecting the citrous groves. Twenty-five varieties of avocados are being tried at the station grounds for the purpose of selecting those

whose yielding and shipping qualities are the best. Raspberries, blackberries, and strawberries are being tested with a fair degree of success. Experiments with many varieties of grapes are being made.

A plant propagation station has been secured where a great variety of native and introduced plants are being propagated. Fruit trees are being grafted with improved varieties. The Corsican citron is being tested, and promises to be one of the best paying fruit trees of the island.

A plant for the demonstration of secondary products has been established of great interest and importance. Special attention has been given to the utilization of the waste products of fruits which are being cheaply converted into cattle feed and fertilizers. Sweet and sour oranges and grapefruits which are unmarketable are being utilized in many profitable ways.

A new interest in banana growing was markedly noticeable during the year. Increased refrigerator systems on vessels between Porto Rico and New York made possible increased shipments of bananas with good results.

The extension work of the department was increased on every line and was especially helpful to fruit growers in every part of the island.

Nurseries are being established on all model farms, in which various kinds of citrous fruits, mangoes, avocados, and other fruits and berries will be tried. Tests are also being made in the growing of breadfruit, ginger, the vanilla bean, gandules, and other varieties of food producing plants and trees. Everything within the limit of its resources that the government can do to assist and encourage the production of fruit on the island is being done.

THE FORESTRY SERVICE

It is the policy of the government through the department of agriculture to develop its forestry service to its utmost capacity. The conditions existing in the island make this work of the greatest importance. Most of the island's area is mountainous. The mountains are not of high altitude and are covered for the most part to their tops with a tenacious soil which is very productive. Originally these mountains were completely covered with timber. With a dense population demanding expansion of their crop-producing area, continual encroachments have been made through the years on these forest areas, until in many cases the mountains have been entirely denuded of their forests, and have been devoted to the production of tobacco, sugar, and other crops.

It is evident that if this practice is not checked the result to the island will be disastrous. Our soils will be eroded, our rainfall diminished and its beneficial effects almost entirely lost, our water courses will be dried up, our water power lost, our irrigation system rendered useless, and water supply for cities and towns lost.

Everything that was possible, within the means placed at the disposition of the department, was done to stay further destruction of our remaining forest areas, and to induce forest growths on denuded lands. Four hundred thousand forest trees were produced on the grounds of the department and distributed gratis to those who would plant them. The department has been able to demon-

strate that forest growing is always a profitable investment on waste lands, and has introduced varieties of quick-growing trees useful for buildings, fences, and other purposes. Thousands of mahogany and other hardwood trees have also been grown and given to applicants in different parts of the island. The demand far exceeds the supply, and this year over 1,000,000 trees will be provided and distributed. The success of this work will probably induce increased appropriations to supply this very justifiable demand.

Trees have also been furnished other government departments and to municipalities for the improvement of the grounds of public buildings, parks, and plazas. Applications of sugar centrals, corporations, and individuals have been honored so far as the resources of the department permitted.

Cooperation with the department of the interior was given for tree planting along the improved public highways of the island. Twenty-six thousand trees was given by the forestry service for this purpose during the year. The work will be greatly extended during the present year.

Arbor day, set aside by law, has become an established institution and a great success. At the celebration held in November during the year 68,500 trees were furnished by the department for planting by the children of the schools. The department of education cooperated effectively in the observance of the day and over 1,000 schools participated.

An instruction class for agricultural agents and for rural teachers in the schools was held during July and August at Mayaguez. The class in forestry was well attended and great interest was manifested, which has borne results during the year and throughout the island. Over 92,000 trees were distributed as a result of this work.

The response to the efforts of the department to excite interest in forestry work among the people has been most gratifying. Thousands of acres of barren or abandoned lands have been planted with trees furnished by the department and placed under its direction. Notwithstanding its utmost efforts the department has not been able to produce and supply one-half of the trees applied for.

It is proper to call attention to the important fact that the development and extension of our coffee plantations and our fruit orchards is forestry service. Every coffee grove and every fruit orchard involves tree-planting and an extension of our forest area. The cocoanut groves and banana plats are also part of forestry. All these should be encouraged by the government and by the people, not only because of the benefits to the individual owner, but also because of the highly beneficial influence in so many ways to the people at large. These, together with all varieties of tree plantings, exert a favorable influence on climate, conserve rainfall, enrich and preserve the soil, prevent floods, beautify the landscape, and render our island already so rich in scenic beauty more attractive to our people and to the world.

The insular forest reserves which are exclusively under insular control, comprise about 39,000 acres, including the mangrove forest lands along the coasts and the Mona Island reserve.

The Luquillo National Forest, which comprises over 15,000 acres, is the largest single portion of virgin forest in the island. It is under Federal control, but is under the supervision of the insular forest service.

The department has entered into negotiations to secure lands for an insular arboretum, where a large collection of native and exotic trees can be grown and exhibited. It is hoped to enlarge this into a botanical garden which may become a center of plant investigation, growth, development and exhibition for the American Tropics.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The success secured in cotton growing on the island has greatly increased planting and production. During the year under review the planting area was increased over 12,000 acres and the increase of the present year promises to be still greater. The variety known as the sea island cotton is most largely planted and is well adapted to our climatic conditions. As this variety brings the highest price in the market it is fortunate that it can be successfully grown here. The amount sent to the United States during the year was 485,953 pounds, valued at $181,832.

The value of the coconut for profitable planting is being increasingly shown. During the fiscal year $605,129 worth of coconuts was sent to the United States and $11,355 to foreign countries. Coconuts will grow on the sea-bordering sands, where nothing else profitable can be produced. As groves require little care and as they are proving a profitable investment, plantings are being largely increased.

Every encouragement in the growing of food-producing root crops and garden vegetables has been given by the department. A great variety of very desirable food products can be grown on the island and it can be and ought to be very nearly self-sustaining in this respect. Yautias, yams, and sweet potatoes are highly nutritious foods which do not require great effort to produce abundantly. The maize crop of the year was abundant and greatly reduced the amount necessary to be imported. The entire demand of the island could be easily supplied from our own lands. Its value for both human food and for the feeding of livestock is well known and increased production is in every way desirable. Several thousand dollars worth of pigeon peas have been sent to the States, and the demand far exceeds the supply.

The increase in the number of cattle, horses, and goats is very noticeable. The department is encouraging this increase, and is helping to preserve the health and improve the quality in every possible way. For use on the model farms high-bred stock has been imported and is there kept and fed to demonstrate the best methods. The dairies on the island have been greatly enlarged and improved and now compare favorably with the best in the States.

LABOR

Under existing law both agriculture and labor are included in a single department. The importance and rapid development of the work of both agriculture and labor have shown the advisability of

creating a new department of the insular government, so as to have a separate department of labor as well as a department of agriculture. Bills are now pending in the Congress of the United States, and favorable reports from the committees have been secured.

In general there has been a marked improvement in labor conditions in the island during the year. There has been a decided increase in the wages of laborers. Living conditions have been improved. Unemployment has decreased. A more generous and sympathetic attitude on the part of employers toward their employees is manifest. The activities of the government in welfare works, education of the children, the prevention and treatment of diseases, and sanitary measures of all kinds have been greatly extended. The chief beneficiaries of all these are the workmen.

The following legislation has been enacted by the legislature for the benefit of labor since the establishment of civil government in Porto Rico: A law regulating the working hours in public works; a law providing for the sale of public lands to laborers; a law determining the procedure in cases of claims for wages by farm laborers against their employers; a law determining the duties of employers in case of strikes; a law establishing a workingmen's settlement in San Juan; a law providing for a dispensary and minor surgeon in shops and factories; a law providing for the construction of scaffolds; a law regulating the weight to be carried by laborers; a law providing for the settlement of strikes and lockouts; a law establishing minimum wages for women and for laborers in public works; a law regulating the work of women and children and protecting them against dangerous occupations; a law creating a homestead commission; a law reorganizing the bureau of labor; a law regulating the employment of minors and providing for the compulsory attendance of children to schools; a law protecting laborers in their right to be members of labor organizations: a law regulating emigrations from Porto Rico; a law compelling employers to protect laborers in their homes; a law regulating the operation of cinematograph machines; a law relative to labor contracts and a workmen's accident compensation act.

During the year the legislature passed a law creating a general employment agency. The purposes of this agency are in general to obtain information as to obtaining work for all desiring employment; to compile, classify, and publish all offers of employment and applications for work received by the agency; to obtain information from abroad where possibilities of employment under satisfactory conditions exist; to establish and develop relations with employment agencies elsewhere. The organization of the work of the agency was begun later in the year. The work has not been greatly extended so far, but organization on approved lines has been satisfactory and promises well for the future.

There was also passed by the legislature during the year a law fixing a minimum wage for all workmen employed on works for the insular government and municipalities. This law has had a great effect on the general wage scale for common labor.

There were no serious strikes among the workers during the year in the island. In several instances the workers on some of the smaller sugar centrals quit work, the matters in dispute were quickly adjusted and the men went back to work. Threatened strikes in the larger centrals were in most cases prevented by adjustments which were

generally favorable to the employees. Seven of the larger centrals adopted a scale of wages based on the market price of sugar. Some of the industries employing labor established piece-work wage scales in accordance with agreements made directly with the laborers. In some of the centrals a substantial lunch was provided for the workers at the noon hour. There was much talk of a general strike being called at the beginning of the season among the sugar workers, but so generally were wages increased and conditions improved by conferences and adjustments of differences that it was never called. In the settlement of differences between the laborers and employees the work of the mediation and conciliation commission was very effective.

WORKMEN'S RELIEF COMMISSION

The workmen's relief commission is a branch of the government service to assist in securing settlement and payment of losses to workingmen occasioned by death, partial or permanent disability, and accidents. Several changes were made by the commission during the year simplifying the procedure and expediting the settlement of claims. At the beginning of the year 6,019 cases were left undetermined, 13,611 additional cases were registered during the year, making a total of 19,630 claims to pass upon. Of these 14,718 cases were settled by the commission, leaving undetermined at the close of the year 4,912 cases. The amounts paid during the year were for compensation, $267,135; medicines, $23,843; medical attendance, $79,499; hospitalization, $42,053, total $412,530. The average paid per case was $28.04.

The number of insured employers at the close of the year was 15,568.

During the year the commission held 171 meetings, and public hearings were held in the principal cities of the island at which various employers were heard as to the work of the commission.

Many suits have been brought in the courts contesting the validity of the law and contesting cases passed upon by the commission. Injunctions have been issued which have greatly interfered with the collection of amounts due from employers. Notwithstanding this, the commission is able to pay promptly all adjusted claims.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The exact extent of unemployment in the island at any given time is impossible to determine, but there is no doubt that it always exists. It is probably true that relatively there is less unemployment now than ever before. Never before were there so many employed in public works. Both the insular government and the municipalities are active in public works of all kinds. There has been an increase of over 100 per cent in buildings erected during the year under review over any previous year. The sugar centrals have extended their activities and increased the number of their laborers. Almost every business and commercial activity has increased the number of its employees. The number of persons employed in the tobacco industry, on the coffee plantations, and on the fruit farms has not been increased during the year, but present demands in all these activities means increased employment.

Still unemployment exists. The island is densely populated. The density of population per square mile in 1920 was 377. That is greater than any of the States except New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Ninety per cent of the people of Porto Rico are dependent on agriculture for their support. In the States named 80 per cent are engaged in industrial or commercial pursuits. It is evident that the welfare of a densely populated country is more difficult to maintain in an agricultural than in an industrial country. It is not by any means a misfortune to live in a country where the large part of the population is engaged in agriculture. But there is a limit to the number who may thus be profitably employed, and when the limit is exceeded the inevitable result is unemployment.

In Porto Rico we have reached the limit beyond which we can not go without an increasing proportion of our population continuing permanently unemployed. Even with the full development of all our now untilled lands, and with intensive cultivation of that which now is used, it is doubtful if we could give full-time employment to all our people.

The principal remedies proposed and which apparently may be available are an increase of industries and emigration, either seasonal or permanent.

Regarding the extension of industries in the island during the year, improvement was small. Two new industries were added to our short list, the manufacture of buttons and pearls. It is probable the largest increase in the number of workers was made in the manufacture and finishing of embroidery, drawn work, and other piecework done by the women in their homes. This work is placed by agencies which furnish the material, collect the finished product, pay for it, and then send it to the States for sale. It is impossible to determine accurately the number of these agencies or the number of the workers thus employed. But 436 agencies and 22,000 persons engaged in the work are reported. It is certain that the number is increasing, both because the amount paid for the work is small and because of the superior facility of the Porto Rican women for that character of work. That this kind of work could be extended in factories is believed possible, as some small establishments of that character have been started.

Lack of local capital to invest in large industrial enterprises is evident, and capital from the States is difficult to obtain, although cheaper building requirements and a much less labor scale should be sufficient inducements.

A careful investigation, I am sure, will result in the conclusion that there is still possibility of some extension of the labor field in agriculture by the development of lands now untilled and by a more intensive cultivation of those now in use. It will also show that we may increase employment by enlarging industries already in operation and by the establishment of new industries. While this may be done, and probably will be done, with our already congested population and with an accelerating annual increase, there will still remain a large amount of unemployment if new fields of labor at home or abroad can not be found.

The emigration each year of a large number of our laborers is proposed. It is believed by many that such is the only method successfully to deal with the increasingly difficult problem of unemployment. Proposals for the employment of laborers from the island have come from the United States, from Hawaii, from the Dominican Republic, and from other places where labor is needed. These proposals are of two kinds: For seasonal labor so arranged that laborers from the island can be taken where needed and work during the rush period and then be returned to Porto Rico. There is no objection to this kind of a proposal if transportation, wages, and satisfactory living conditions can be arranged. So far sufficient guaranties in these regards have not been given.

The other proposition involves the emigration of laborers to places where they are to remain permanently. There have been tentative proposals from many places, from Hawaii, from the Dominican Republic, and especially from the Southern States, for such workers. In such cases the government takes the position that it should insist on certain conditions being met before it could approve such proposals. These are, in general, that arrangements be made to take no married men unless provision is also made for their families; that guaranties be given of permanent employment at adequate wages; that housing and living conditions be satisfactorily arranged So far these conditions have not been met.

It is evident that emigration can not be enforced. It must be voluntary; and, if the government is to approve, it must be shown that the laborers' condition will be improved by the arrangement.

WAGES

There was a decided increase in the wages paid in the island during the year. This increase did not reach all classes of labor and certainly did not reach all individuals. But it was general, and in many classes a marked increase was made. In some instances wages were doubled. The amount paid in money is not always an accurate measure of compensation. On the sugar plantations there are several classes of work. During the grinding season many are employed and the wages are usually fairly reasonable. But that class of work is seasonal, and when the grinding season is over many are discharged for the year and must find other work. Those who remain on the plantations to plant and till the cane for the next harvest are usually furnished a house and garden. Other things for their benefit such as medical attendance, hospital service and special school facilities, etc., sometimes are also furnished.

On the coffee and tobacco plantations the rate of wages is less than that paid on the sugar plantations. The principal work is also seasonal and the workers, both men and women, are only paid what might be considered full wages during the rush periods. In most cases the workers live on the plantations in houses furnished by the owners. Gardens are also furnished, and the workers have the right to use bananas, cocoanuts, bread-fruit, and other food products from the farms.

On the fruit farms like conditions often exist.

In most cases there appears to be no disposition by the owners to impose on these workers who are also their tenants. Some exceptions in cases of nonresident owners exist, but apparently they are few. Usually it will be found that the owners do all that they can, and seem to desire to treat them fairly so that they will remain on the farms as a dependable working reserve.

There has not been much increase in the wages paid to the workers who are also tenants. Among other classes of labor there has been in most instances a considerable increase in the amount of wages paid. The averages are not up to the high standards of the United States but neither is the cost of living here so high as in the States. But wages now paid in Porto Rico are better than those paid in Europe, and the cost of living is less than in Europe . It is also true that the condition of tenant labor is much better in every respect in Porto Rico than in Europe, and is infinitely better than in South America. It might also be said in passing that there is less unemployment here than in most European countries.

The following is a list of wages that are now paid in the government works, in San Juan, and in the island, and also in private works, from information derived from contractors of the government itself, and from men of the departments who have worked in the different industries:

Mechanics in the government shops	per hour	$0. 40–$0. 50
Auxiliary mechanics	do	. 30– . 35
Head carpenters in construction in San Juan	per day	7. 00
Common carpenters	per hour	. 45
Assistants to carpenters	do	. 35
Head carpenters in private works	per day	6. 00
Other carpenters	per hour	. 50
Carpenters in the island, and outside of town	per day	3. 00– 5. 00
Poorest carpenters are getting	do	2. 50
First-class masons, in San Juan	do	6. 00– 8. 00
Second-class masons, around	do	4. 00
Masons working throughout the island	do	4. 00– 5. 00
Poorest masons	do	2. 50
First-class painters	per hour	. 60
Ordinary painters	do	. 50
Painters in private work, about	per day	4. 00
Painters in the island	do	2. 50
Blacksmiths, in San Juan	per hour	. 30– . 50
Blacksmiths, in the island	do	. 30– . 50
First-class electricians, in San Juan	per day	5. 00– 7. 00
Electricians, in the island	do	4. 00– 5. 00
Assistant electricians, around	do	2. 50
First-class plumbers, in San Juan	do	6. 00– 7. 00
Second-class plumbers, in the island	do	5. 00– 6. 00
Plumbers, in the island, about $2 less than the aforesaid amount.		
First-class laborers and concrete mixers	per day	2. 00
Common laborers	per day and up	1. 60
Laborers and concrete mixers in the island	per day	1. 25
Ordinary laborers, in the island	do	1. 00
Foremen, in San Juan, around	do	4. 00
Foremen, in the island	do	2. 00
Wages in the cane fields run from $1 the common laborers, to $4 for those that work by piecework.		
Locomotive and road-roller driver	per day	3. 00– 5. 00
Men working in the coffee industry usually get a house, a piece of land, and bananas free; during the dull season they are paid about	per day	. 50
During the harvest season, they are paid, about	do	1. 00
Women get about (and the work is done by piecework)	do	. 50

Men working in the tobacco fields are paid about	per day	$1.00
Women made during the last crop	do	.75
Boys made during the last crop	do	.50
Cigarmakers are paid in the shops from (the work is also done by piecework)	per day	2.00– 6.00
Truck drivers are getting about	do	2.50– 5.00
Chauffeurs are getting about	do	2.50– 5.00
Stevedores: We have no data at hand, but they earn big salaries.		
Longshoremen in the island, about (but the work is not steady)	per day	1.00
Men crushing stone by hand	do	1.50– 2.00
Domestic labor in San Juan, with room and board	per month	6.00–20.00
Domestic labor in the island, with room and board	do	3.00– 6.00

A majority of the people of the island are workingmen or workingwomen or those who are dependent on them for support. The questions of employment and wages are questions which affect not only those who are workmen or workwomen, but they also vitally affect the prosperity of the whole island and the general welfare of all its people. The government is studying very carefully every phase of the workingmen's condition in Porto Rico, with the purpose of doing everything that a government should do for the betterment of conditions. Much has been done, and much remains to do. No effort will be spared to help wherever help is needed. They should be independent and intelligent and should be afforded every opportunity to become so, in order that they will not suffer from fraud and imposition. The law should guard them in the protection of their lives and property and should furnish a good education for their children. There is such a desire for these things and such a ready adaptation to improved conditions among the people that the future is bright for their greater welfare and happiness.

PUBLIC WORKS

By the provisions of the organic act the commissioner of the interior is directed to "superintend all works of a public nature" in the island. The construction of all roads, bridges, schoolhouses, and public buildings of every character, except those belonging to the United States, are thus committed to the insular government. The year under review has been one of great activity and progress. In every branch of the service it has been necessary to greatly extend construction to answer the requirements of the people, and this has been done to the utmost extent within the resources of the government.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

In no portion of the service is there greater obligation resting upon the Government than in the construction and maintenance of public highways. Our railroads are few and limited to our coastal plains. The mountainous interior can only be reached by public highways, which can only be made permanent and kept safe by large expenditures of money. For this reason accomplishment must depend on our resources and as our resources are limited progress must seem slow. Notwithstanding this, what has been done has been done well, and Porto Rico can well take pride in her highways which already receive the admiring commendation of visiting observers.

As was stated in last year's report, a comprehensive plan of extension construction was made by law in 1916, which provided for the building of 48 insular roads, which, with those already in existence, will connect every important city and town and reach all parts of the interior. Unfortunately this program was for a time abandoned, but was at once resumed by this administration. The road construction plan was actively followed during the year under review; 65.1 kilometers of macadamized road, including all necessary adjuncts, such as drain pipes, culverts and retaining walls were completely constructed; 19 reinforced concrete bridges were built; contracts were made for 86.85 kilometers of new road; and 16 bridges were made, involving an expenditure of $1,316,000. A comparison with previous years shows that this amount is much larger than was ever before made. For the year 1921–22 it was $281,000; for 1922–23, $621,000; and for 1923–24, $1,316,000

The amount actually expended during the year for roads and bridges was much larger than previous years. The amount expended during the year 1921–22 was $797,000; for the year 1922–23, $456,000; while for the year 1923–24 the amount expended was $1,440,000.

The record made for new construction made during the year also constituted a new record. During the year 1921–22, 34.1 kilometers were built; 1922–23, only 26.9 kilometers; while the record of 65.1 for the year 1923–24 was made. The same is true with the number of bridges built; in 1921–22, only 8; in 1922–23, 5; while in 1923–24, 19 were constructed.

At the close of the year under review Porto Rico had 1,447 kilometers of fully completed, hard-surfaced, and in many cases asphalted highways, well graded and drained with permanent, safe, and first-class bridges, as good as can be found anywhere. They are justly the pride of the people and the admiration of all who see or use them.

One hundred and forty-one kilometers of new highways have been surveyed, and of these contracts have already been awarded for 56 kilometers. The department has also taken charge of many municipal road projects, for which surveys and topographical maps were made.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF ROADS AND BRIDGES

For purposes of maintenance and repairs the island is divided into 12 road districts. An overseer is placed in charge of each district, who is responsible for the upkeep of the roads within his territory. To assist him he has a force of foremen and road menders, the former varying from 4 to 8 in number and the latter from 30 to 60. Each foreman has under his care from 15 to 30 kilometers and is expected to visit his section every day. The road mender is a permanent employee and is invested with certain police power. He has under his charge about 3 kilometers, or about 1⅞ miles of road. The system is a most admirable one and with sufficient funds will not only prevent the road from deteriorating but will improve them from year to year despite the constantly increasing traffic.

The amount expended during the year for maintenance and repairs, including salaries of employees and all cost of material, was $1,091,000.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Operations in the division of public buildings of the department of the interior have been greatly extended during the year. Most of the municipalities have made or are making loans for schoolhouses, hospitals, etc. In most of these the department is called upon to furnish plans and specifications, and under the law all such buildings must be constructed under the direct supervision of the commissioner. In addition the insular government procured a loan of $6,000,000, most of which is to be expended on greatly needed public buildings under direction of the department.

Among these is the completion of the insular capitol, construction of a new penitentiary, an insane asylum, a leper asylum, a reform school for girls, an institute for blind children, extensions of the tuberculosis sanatorium, a building for the school of tropical medicine, completion of the San Juan high school, a number of rural schools, district hospitals, district court buildings, consolidated rural schools, buildings for demonstration farms, etc. Some of these are at the present time nearing completion, some are well under operation, some are merely started, some are advertised for bids, and practically have plans and specifications ready to be advertised for bids.

MUNICIPAL WORKS

The commissioner of the interior has supervision of all municipal improvements made from funds obtained from loans guaranteed by the people of Porto Rico. In effect that means supervision of practically all municipal improvements. This includes, besides public buildings, waterworks, sewerage systems, street paving, electric plants, and the improvement of parks, plazas, besides the building of municipal roads and bridges. Of this class works were begun during preceding year and completed during the year aggregating a total cost of $376,000. Works were begun during fiscal year and completed during the present year aggregating $170,000. Works begun during the present year aggregate $1,307,000.

PUBLIC LANDS AND ARCHIVES

The division of public lands and archives is in charge of the survey, care, leasing and registration of the lands belonging to the people of Porto Rico. It is the keeper of the records of all buildings and lands, showing area, value, and description. Part of these lands and buildings were originally owned by the Crown of Spain, transferred by treaty to the United States, and granted by act of Congress to Porto Rico. The archives of the Spanish government containing documents of the greatest importance are also under the care of this division.

Over 20,000 acres of land were surveyed during the year. Of these about 500 small farms have been placed under the control of the homestead commission to be leased to agricultural laborers with a right to become the owner upon payment of a nominal price. Other portions of the public lands are being set aside and surveyed with the same object in view.

As rapidly as possible all lands belonging to the insular government will be surveyed and reclaimed, so that all such lands as may be of use to the people can be made available, such as are needed for municipal purposes may be conveyed to the municipalities, such as may be needed for further insular purposes can be devoted to such uses, and such as are proper to be retained and developed as forests may be placed under the control of forestry service for such purpose.

INSULAR TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE

A bureau of the department of the interior has charge of the construction, extension, maintenance, and operation of the public telegraph system. During the year under review the system was greatly extended and improved. The volume of business was greater than in previous years and the expenditures were also greater. Under the existing conditions it is expected that the system will produce increased revenues for the government. A wireless commercial service with ships at sea and adjacent countries has been arranged. Telegraphic money orders are now issued, and a common telegraph and telephone exchange established.

The government system of telegraph has been augmented by a telephone service operated by the same governmental agency. Some considerable increase and improvement of this service was also made during the year.

This experiment in government ownership and operation, which we inherited from the Spanish Government, has not yet been made to demonstrate its practical value.

IRRIGATION

The rainfall for the year ending June 30, 1924, was only 88.5 per cent normal. This resulted in a decreased inflow, which together with the low stage of the reservoirs at the beginning of the year brought about a shortage in the supply available for irrigation. Later in the year an improvement occurred in the western division of the irrigation district. Copious rains filled the reservoirs to full capacity and the supply for irrigation was sufficient to meet irrigation requirements.

Improvements and extensions of the hydroelectric plant at Carite were begun and are well under way with further extensions in contemplation. Other improvements are also planned.

A hydroelectric survey of the island was provided for by the legislature with an annual appropriation of $25,000. This survey will determine the water resources of the island and the possibilities of their development. Preliminary preparation and work were begun during the year. Investigation as to dam sites and locations for hydroelectric plants are under way and the work will progress during the present year.

The Isabela irrigation project was authorized in June, 1923. This system is located in the northwestern section of the island and involves an expenditure of $3,325,000. The contract for the construction of the dam was made at a cost of $701,702, and work commenced March 3, 1924. Headquarters for direction of the work was

established at Quebradillas. The acquisition of land for right of way was prosecuted vigorously during the year. Progress is slow because of the numerous owners and many defective titles. The final completion of the project is not expected for several years.

AUTOMOBILES

The department of the interior has charge of the registration and regulation of automobiles and motor trucks; 10,263 were registered during the year, an increase of 2,146 over the previous year. The revenue received was $261,701, an increase of $26,564 over the preceding year. Licenses to operators were issued to the number of 7,471, an increase of 4,012 over the previous year. Applications for examinations were filed to the number of 2,642, and 2,253 were examined. The total amount received for examination fees and licenses was $23,255.

HOMESTEAD COMMISSION

The homestead commission consists of the commissioner of the interior, the commissioner of health, the insular treasurer, the commissioner of agriculture and labor, and three persons appointed by the governor. The activities of this commission are most important and reach every section of the island.

A part of the municipality of San Juan, known as Puerta de Tierra, was made uninhabitable by dredging operations of the harbor. Large numbers of persons were compelled to leave their places of abode and find new locations. Many have been located elsewhere, and it is planned by the commission to secure a new location, possibly in the Barrio Obrero for others; $8,892 indemnity has already been paid the occupants by the insular government.

WORKMEN'S SETTLEMENT

Land was secured and a workingmen's settlement established at Martin Pena (Barrio Obrero), in the environs of San Juan. The land was surveyed and plotted, streets, water, light, and sewerage provided, and small sanitary houses built on the lots. Over 500 of such houses were provided. There is great demand for them and the government has never had resources to satisfy the demand for extensions. By the arrangement rents are paid by the occupants, who become the owners at the expiration of a certain period. For a time the rents on 66 of the houses became delinquent. Settlements were made with occupants and new families were installed. Since then there has been little difficulty in collecting payments.

The payments made during the previous year averaged $2,678 per month. During the year under review the payments averaged $4,275 per month. The receipts for the year amounted to $51,308.

Houses are of two types, wooden and concrete. Large numbers of applications were received for these houses during the year, mostly for wooden construction. The commission has limited the number of wooden houses and most of the new construction will be concrete. Plans for extending the village by acquiring additional territory and for improving the streets and extending the sewerage system are being made.

The plans of the department for securing small farms by rental payments and of securing homes in or adjoining the cities and towns of the island by the workingmen with families is proving a great boon to these people, who would otherwise never be able to acquire a farm or home of their own. No other work of the government is more greatly appreciated by the laboring classes of both the city and country than this and no other is more successful. It will be extended as rapidly as the resources of the government will permit.

The work accomplished by the department of the interior during the year under review was exceptionally large. The record of accomplishment has never been equaled, and the amount of new projects begun and under way is far greater than has ever before been contemplated. The personnel of the department has been increased in number and strengthened in character, and their activity and efficiency throughout the year was all that could be desired. The work of the current year will be fully as great as was the last, and the record of accomplishment promises to be still greater.

It should be recognized that all these public works are not simply desirable, they are imperatively necessary. The discouraging rate of mortality and illiteracy, the education of thousands of children not yet provided with schools, the remote localities where roads are needed in order that schools may be provided, public morals, sanitary requirements, and ordinary living arrangements can not be made possible and the condition of our laboring population made what it ought to be without them. Besides, we have all too long delayed providing places for the keeping and treatment of the unfortunate and the afflicted. This is the first duty of every civilized people. By their response to these demands of progress and human betterment their place among the peoples of the world is largely determined. The lack of an adequate penitentiary, asylum for the insane, hospitals for the afflicted poor, and other necessary charitable and humanitarian agencies placed upon Porto Rico a responsibility and an obligation to which the government could not refuse to respond.

INSULAR POLICE

It may be here repeated that the entire work of policing the island, including protection of life and property and the maintenance of order, devolves upon the insular police. There are no local or municipal police officers, and the administration of the force is centralized at police headquarters at San Juan. The organization consists of one chief with assistants, 68 district chiefs, 14 sergeants, 34 corporals, one chief detective with 24 assistants, and 650 guardsmen, or a total force of 794. This is very evidently a small force to protect the lives and maintain order in a population of over 1,300,000 and to guard property over $300,000,000 in amount. It is a strong tribute to their loyalty and efficiency that they do it so well as to receive universal approval and praise.

The cost of policing the island during the fiscal year was $827,767, or 74 cents per capita.

A relief fund is provided for assistance in cases of illness or other misfortunes. Over $7,000 was expended from this fund during the year.

A retirement-pension fund is also provided. Thirty-five were granted retirement during the year and 70 names are now on the pension roll. The amount paid during the year was over $22,000.

The total number of arrests made during the year was 57,983, of which 775 were for felonies; $45,719 worth of property was recovered and fines aggregating $137,546 were imposed. Of the 47,378 cases tried during the year 39,455 resulted in convictions and 7,923 in acquittals; 3,147 weapons were confiscated.

The police and detectives have devoted a great deal of effort to the enforcement of the prohibitory liquor law. One thousand three hundred and thirteen stills and 44,030 quarts of liquor were seized. The number of arrests made was 3,884, an increase of 822 over the previous year; 3,256 of the persons arrested were convicted, 435 were acquitted, and 192 cases were pending at the close of the year.

During the year there were 171 suicides.

The number of accidents recorded was 2,389. In all of these cases it is the duty of the police to make investigations and reports.

It is also made the duty of the police to investigate and make record of all fires. Two hundred and fifty-seven occurred during the year. The largest losses were in the cane fields, amounting to $333,478. Other losses amounted to $1,153,000. Eight lives were lost.

To maintain order and protect life and property when labor troubles and strikes occur is one of the tasks of the force. Some difficulties of this kind occurred during the year, but in practically all cases they were adjusted without serious trouble.

With the growth of population and the increase of business and property there has not been a corresponding increase of the police force. This should be done, and the matter will be placed before the next legislature, asking for favorable consideration.

NATIONAL GUARD

At the close of the fiscal year the authorized strength of the National Guard in Porto Rico was one regiment and one separate battalion of infantry, with a total enrollment of 85 officers and 1,871 men. The progress made during the year was very satisfactory. The instructions were kept at a high standard, considering the conditions under which many of the organizations were compelled to work. Many have no adequate drill grounds, none have a target range, and the government does not own any suitable buildings for armories and is compelled to rent such buildings as may be obtained.

The annual field encampment was held in August, 1923, at Ponce, with good attendance and progressive instruction. The full program as arranged was carried out.

During the year the guard was not called out for any service, but several organizations rendered effective service in case of fires.

BUREAU OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The bureau of weights and measures, under the jurisdiction of the office of the executive secretary, was created by an act of the legislature, approved August 18, 1913. The bureau, as at present constituted, consists of 1 chief inspector, an assistant chief inspector, 8

district inspectors, and 75 municipal inspectors of weights and measures; an inspector of gas, electric, and water meters; and 2 assistant inspectors. Both the metric and the English systems of weights and measures are legally authorized in Porto Rico. All weights and measures apparatus imported into or manufactured in the island are tested in the bureau of weights and measures prior to their being offered for sale, and all instruments which are actually in use at the commercial or industrial establishments are regularly examined, tested, and regulated by the inspectors, in accordance with the methods of procedure established by the National Bureau of Standards, 264,100 instruments having been tested during the year, of which 82.41 per cent were found correct. The inspectors display a constant vigilance against the perpetration of fraud, and to this effect during the year they verified the weight of 652,265 packages of merchandise sold or offered for sale, of which 454,800 were found correct. Although the personnel and facilities at the command of the division of electric, gas, and water meters inspection service are very limited, the work done by this division during the year has been very satisfactory. Visits of inspection were made to all municipalities of the island during the year, and all complaints formulated by consumers to the bureau were duly investigated.

INSULAR RACING COMMISSION

Realizing that racing is a recreation greatly loved by the people of Porto Rico, and that unless regulated by law it will degenerate into dishonest practices, the legislature in August, 1923, passed a comprehensive law, under which the commission is now operating. Under the administration of the present exceedingly competent and vigilant commission the results have been very satisfactory to the public and racing is now being conducted in Porto Rico on the best models of the States and Europe. All rulings, expulsions, and penalties of the commission are recognized by the authorities in the States.

Under the provisions of the law an excise tax is imposed on a portion of the receipts, which will probably result in an income to the government of over $100,000 annually. The commission, with the approval of the governor, has also donated from its surplus funds to charitable institutions in the total amount at the close of the year of $5,394.

ELECTIONS

Under the provisions of the organic act general elections in Porto Rico are held every four years. At these quadrennial elections the Resident Commissioner at Washington, all senators and representatives of the insular legislature, municipal and other officers are elected by the people. The general election is being held in November of the current year, so that report will be made thereof in the next annual report.

The local law provides for an insular board of elections, which shall have supervision and direction of the elections, the chairman of which is also the general supervisor of elections. The activities of the general supervisor and of the board during the fiscal year were

confined for the most part to preparation for the general election, to be held in November, 1924. The registration of voters must be made during the months of March and April prior to the election, and falls within the scope of this review. The registry of voters contains the names, ages, colors, and residences of all qualified electors. New voters and those requiring changes of location are required to register and all exclusions and reinstatements are also required. All those who voted at the last preceding election are not required to again register, except on change of residence.

The registrations for the year were very carefully made, and the list of electors was very complete when ready for use at the general election; 90,415 persons were registered, including transfers of residence, which were numerous. This brought the total number of qualified electors apparently to 359,048. Exclusions provided for by law will, however, quite largely reduce that number.

The question of the privilege of voting by the women of Porto Rico arose during the registration period by the demand of a woman otherwise qualified to be registered as a voter. The local election board refused her registration. The question was taken to the supreme court, which decided that the constitutional amendment granting suffrage to women in the States did not apply to Porto Rico. This decision would appear to leave this important question to the action and control of the Legislature of Porto Rico. I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

HORACE M. TOWNER,
Governor of Porto Rico.

The SECRETARY OF WAR,
Washington, D. C.

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