# H. R. 3910

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DECEMBER 17, 1923.

Mr. Davila introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Insular Affairs and ordered to be printed.

# A BILL

To provide a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes.

- Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
  That the provisions of this Act shall apply to the island
  of Porto Rico and to the adjacent islands belonging to the
  United States, and waters of those islands; and the name
  of Porto Rico as used in this Act shall be held to include not
  only the island of that name but all the adjacent islands as
  aforesaid.
- 9 BILL OF RIGHTS.
- SEC. 2. That no law shall be enacted in Porto Rico which shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, or deny to any person therein the equal protection of the laws.

- 1 That in all criminal prosecutions the accused shall
- 2 enjoy the right to have the assistance of counsel for his
- 3 defense, to be informed of the nature and cause of the
- 4 accusation, to have a copy thereof, to have a speedy and
- 5 public trial, to be confronted with the witnesses against
- 6 him, and to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses
- 7 in his favor.
- 8 That no person shall be held to answer for a criminal
- 9 offense without due process of law; and no person for the
- 10 same offense shall be twice put in jeopardy of punishment,
- 11 nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness
- 12 against himself.
- 13 That all persons shall, before conviction, be bailable by
- 14 sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses when the proof
- 15 is evident or the presumption great.
- That no law impairing the obligation of contracts shall
- 17 be enacted.
- That no person shall be imprisoned for debt.
- That the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall
- 20 not be suspended, unless when, in case of rebellion, insur-
- 21 rection, or invasion, the public safety may require it, in either
- of which events the same may be suspended by the Presi-
- dent, or by the resident commissioner of the United States,
- 24 'whenever during such period the necessity for such suspen-
- 25 sion shall exist.

- 1 That no ex post facto law or bill of attainder shall be
- 2 enacted.
- 3 Private property shall not be taken or damaged for
- 4 public use except upon payment of just compensation ascer-
- 5 tained in the manner provided by law.
- Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to
- 7 limit the power of the legislature to enact laws for the
- 8 protection of the lives, health, or safety of employees.
- 9 That no law granting a title of nobility shall be enacted,
- 10 and no person holding any office of profit or trust under
- 11 the government of Porto Rico shall, without the consent
- 12 of the Congress of the United States, accept any present,
- 13 emolument, office, or title of any kind whatever from any
- 14 king, queen, prince, or foreign State, or any officer thereof.
- 15 That excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive
- 16 fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.
- 17 That the right to be secure against unreasonable
- 18 searches and seizures shall not be violated.
- That no warrant for arrest or search shall issue but
- 20 upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and
- 21 particularly describing the place to be searched and the
- 22 persons or things to be seized.
- 23 That slavery shall not exist in Porto Rico.
- That involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for
- crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted,
- 26 shall not exist in Porto Rico.

- That no law shall be passed abridging the freedom of
- 2 speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably
- 3 to assemble and petition the government for redress of
- 4 grievances.
- 5 That no law shall be made respecting an establishment
- 6 of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and that
- 7 the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and
- 8 worship without discrimination or preference shall forever
- 9 be allowed, and that no political or religious test other
- 10 than an oath to support the Constitution of the United
- 11 States and the laws of Porto Rico shall be required as
- 12 a qualification to any office or public trust under the gov-
- 13 ernment of Porto Rico.
- That no public money or property shall ever be appro-
- 15 priated, applied, donated, or used, directly or indirectly. for
- 16 the use, benefit, or support of any sect, church, denomina-
- 17 tion, sectarian institution or association, or system of religion,
- 18 or for the use, benefit, or support of any priest, preacher,
- 19 minister, or other religious teacher or dignitary as such.
- 20 Contracting of polygamous or plural marriages hereafter is
- 21 prohibited.
- The legislature herein provided may authorize and
- 23 regulate the importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxi-
- 24 cating liquors and drugs for medicinal, sacramental, indus-

- 1 trial, and scientific uses only, as well as fix the penalty
- 2, for the violations of the laws in respect thereto.
- 3 That no money shall be paid out of the treasury except
- 4 in pursuance of an appropriation by law and on warrant
- 5 drawn by the proper officer in pursuance thereof.
- 6 That the rule of taxation in Porto Rico shall be uniform.
- 7 That all money derived from any tax levied or assessed
- 8 for a special purpose shall be treated as a special fund in the
- 9 treasury and paid out for such purpose only, except upon the
- 10 approval of the President of the United States.
- 11 That eight hours shall constitute a day's work in all
- 12 cases of employment of laborers and mechanics by and on
- 13 behalf of the government of the island on public works,
- 14 except in cases of emergency.
- 15 That the employment of children under the age of
- 16 fourteen years in any occupation injurious to health or morals
- or hazardous to life or limb is hereby prohibited.
- 18 SEC. 3. That no export duties shall be levied or col-
- 19 lected on exports from Porto Rico, but taxes and assessments
- 20 on property, internal revenue, and license fees, and royalties
- 21 for franchises, privileges, and concessions may be imposed
- 22 for the purposes of the insular and municipal governments,
- 23 respectively, as may be provided and defined by the Legis-
- 24 lature of Porto Rico; and when necessary to anticipate taxes
- 25 and revenues, bonds and other obligations may be issued

- 1 by Porto Rico or any municipal government therein as may
- 2 be provided by law and to protect the public credit:
- 3 Provided, however, That no public indebtedness of Porto
- 4 Rico or of any subdivision or municipality thereof shall be
- 5 authorized or allowed in excess of 10 per centum of the
- 6 aggregate tax valuation of its property, and all bonds issued
- 7 by the government of Porto Rico, or by its authority, shall
- 8 be exempt from taxation by the Government of the United
- 9 States, or by the government of Porto Rico or of any
- 10 political or municipal subdivision thereof, or by any State.
- 11 or by any county, municipality, or other municipal subdi-
  - 12, vision of any State or Territory of the United States, or by
- 13 the District of Columbia. In computing the indebtedness
- 14 of the people of Porto Rico, bonds issued by the people of
- 15 Porto Rico secured by an equivalent amount of bonds of
- 16 municipal corporations or school boards of Porto Rico shall
- 17 not be counted.
- SEC. 4. That the capital of Porto Rico shall be at the
- 19 city of San Juan, and the seat of government shall be
- 20 maintained there.
- SEC. 5. That all citizens of Porto Rico, as defined by
- 22 section 7 of the Act of April 12, 1900, "temporarily to
- 23 provide revenues and a civil government for Porto Rico,
- 24 and for other purposes," that also became citizens of the
- 25 United States by virtue of section 5 of the Act of March

- 1 2, 1917, or that may become such citizens of the United
- 2 States, shall be and are hereby held to constitute a body
- 3 politic under the name of The People of Porto Rico and with
- 4 power to sue and be sued.
- 5 Any person who is born in Porto Rico of an alien
- 6 parent and is permanently residing in that island may, if a
- 7 minor, upon reaching his majority or within one year there-
- 8 after, make a sworn declaration of allegiance to the United
- 9 States before the Supreme Court of Porto Rico, setting
- 10 forth therein all the facts connected with his or her birth
- 11 and residence in Porto Rico and accompanying due proof
- 12 thereof, and from and after the making of such declaration
- 13 shall be considered to be a citizen of the United States.
- 14 Sec. 6. That all expenses that may be incurred on
- 15 account of the government of Porto Rico for salaries of offi-
- 16 cials and the conduct of their offices and departments, and
- 17 all expenses and obligations contracted for the internal im-
- 18 provement or development of the island, not, however, in-
- 19 cluding defenses, barracks, harbors, lighthouses, buoys, and
- 20 other works undertaken by the United States, shall, except as
- 21 otherwise specifically provided by the Congress, be paid by
- 22 the treasurer of Porto Rico out of the revenue in his custody.
- SEC. 7. That all property which may have been
- 24 acquired in Porto Rico by the United States under the ces-
- 25 sion of Spain in the treaty of peace entered into on the

10th day of December, 1898, in any public bridges, road 1 houses, water powers, highways, unnavigable streams and 2 the beds thereof, subterranean waters, mines or minerals 3 under the surface of private lands, all property which 4 at the time of the cession belonged, under the laws of 5 Spain then in force, to the various harbor works boards 6 of Porto Rico, and all the harbor shores, docks, slips, re-7 claimed lands, and all the public lands and buildings not 8 heretofore reserved by the United States for public pur-9 poses, is hereby placed under the control of the government 10 of Porto Rico, to be administered for the benefit of the 11 people of Porto Rico; and the Legislature of Porto Rico 12 shall have authority, subject to the limitations imposed upon 13 all its acts, to legislate with respect to all such matters as it 14 15 may deem advisable: Provided, That the President may from time to time, in his discretion, convey to the people of 16 17 Porto Rico such lands, buildings, or interests in lands or other property now owned by the United States and within 18 the territorial limits of Porto Rico as in his opinion are no 19 longer needed for purposes of the United States. 20 may from time to time accept by legislative grant from 21 Porto Rico any lands, buildings, or other interest or property 22 which may be needed for public purposes by the United 23 States. 24

SEC. 8. That the harbor areas and navigable streams 1 and bodies of waters and submerged lands underlying the 2 same in and around the island of Porto Rico and the adja-3 4 cent islands and waters now owned by the United States and not reserved by the United States for public purposes 5 be, and the same are hereby, placed under the control of the 6 government of Porto Rico, to be administered in the same 7 8 manner and subject to the same limitations as the property 9 enumerated in the preceding section: Provided, That all 10. laws of the United States for the protection and improvement of the navigable waters of the United States and the 11 preservation of the interests of navigation and commerce, 12 except so far as the same may be locally inapplicable, shall 13 apply to said island and waters and to its adjacent islands 14 and waters: Provided further, That nothing in this Act 15 16 contained shall be construed so as to affect or impair in any manner the terms or conditions of any authorizations, per-17 mits, or other powers heretofore lawfully granted or exer-18 cised in or in respect of said waters and submerged lands 19 in and surrounding said island and its adjacent islands by 20 the Secretary of War or other authorized officer or agent of 21 22the United States. SEC. 9. That no law enacted by Congress shall be 23

SEC. 9. That no law enacted by Congress shall be extended to Porto Rico unless by expressed provision of the same, and hereafter all taxes collected under the internal

- 1 revenue laws of the United States on articles produced in
- 2 Porto Rico and transported to the United States, or con-
- 3 sumed in the island shall be covered into the treasury of
- 4 Porto Rico.
- 5 Sec. 10. That all judicial process shall run in the
- 6 name of "United States of America, ss, the President of the
- 7 United States," and all penal or criminal prosecutions in
- 8 the local courts shall be conducted in the name and by the
- 9 authority of "The People of Porto Rico"; and all officials
- 10 shall be citizens of Porto Rico and of the United States
- 11 and, before entering upon the duties of their respective
- 12 offices, shall take an oath to support the Constitution of
- 13 the United States and the laws of Porto Rico.
- 14 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
- 15 Sec. 11. That the supreme executive power shall be
- vested in an executive officer whose official title shall be the
- 17 Governor of Porto Rico. He shall be elected by the quali-
- 18 fied electors of Porto Rico at the time and places of voting
- 19 for members of the legislature in general election, and shall
- 20 hold his office for a term of four years beginning on the
- 21 first Monday in March next after his election.
- The governor shall reside in Porto Rico during his
- 23 official incumbency and maintain his office at the seat of
- 24 government. He shall have general supervision and con-
- 25 trol of all departments and bureaus of the government in

Porto Rico, so far as is not inconsistent with the provisions of 1 this Act, and shall be commander in chief of the militia. 2 He may grant pardons and reprieves and remit fines and 3 forfeitures for offenses against the laws of Porto Rico, and 4 respites for all offenses against the laws of the United States 5 6 until the decision of the President can be ascertained, and may veto any legislation enacted as hereinafter provided. 7 He shall commission all officers that he may be authorized 8 to appoint. 9 He shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws of Porto Rico and of the United States 10 applicable in Porto Rico, and whenever it becomes neces-11 12 sary he may call upon the commanders of the military and 13 naval forces of the United States in the island, or summon the posse comitatus, or call out the militia to prevent or 14 15 suppress lawless violence, invasion, insurrection, or rebellion, and he may, in case of rebellion or invasion, or imminent 16 17 danger thereof, when the public safety requires it, suspend 18 the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, or place the island 19 or any part thereof under martial law until communication 20 can be had with the President and the President's decision 21 therein made known. He shall annually, and at such other times as he may be required, make official report of the 22 transactions of the government of Porto Rico to the execu-23 24 tive department of the Government of the United States to 25 be designated by the President as herein provided, and his

- 1 said annual report shall be transmitted to Congress, and he
- 2 shall perform such additional duties and functions as may
- 3 in pursuance of law be delegated to him by the President.
- 4 No person shall be eligible to the office of governor who
- 5 is not a qualified elector, a citizen of the United States and
- 6 a resident of Porto Rico, born either in the United States or
- 7 in Porto Rico, who has not attained the age of thirty years,
- 8 and who does not read and write the Spanish and English
- 9 languages.
- The returns of every election for governor shall be
- 11 scaled up and transmitted to the seat of government, directed
- 12 to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall,
- 13 during the first week of the session next after their election,
- 14 open and publish them in the presence of both houses of
- 15 the legislature; and the person having the highest number
- of votes for said office shall be governor; but if two or more
- shall be equal and highest in votes for the office of governor,
- one of them shall be chosen governor by the joint vote of
- 19 the two houses, a majority determining. And contested
- elections for governor shall be determined by both houses of
- 21 the legislature in such manner as shall be prescribed by law.
- In case of the impeachment of the governor and his
- removal from office, death, refusal to qualify, resignation,
- 24 or absence from the island, the president of the Senate of
- 25 Porto Rico shall exercise all the power and authority apper-

- 1 taining to the office of governor until the governor, absent
- 2 or impeached, shall return or be acquitted, or until the gov-
- 3 ernor next regularly elected shall be duly qualified, as the
- 4 case may be; and for the time the president of the senate
- 5 shall occupy the office of governor he shall receive the same
- 6 compensation as shall be allowed by law to the regularly
- 7 elected governor: Provided, however, That while the presi-
- 8 dent of the senate substitutes for the governor he shall be
- 9 precluded from acting as such member of the senate.
- SEC. 12. That the following executive departments are 10 hereby created: A department of justice, the head of which 11 12shall be designated as the attorney general; a department of finance, the head of which shall be designated as the 13 treasurer; a department of interior, the head of which shall 14 15 be designated as the commissioner of the interior; a depart-16 ment of education, the head of which shall be designated as 17 the commissioner of education; a department of agriculture and labor, the head of which shall be designated as the com-18 19 missioner of agriculture and labor; and a department of 20 health, the head of which shall be designated as the commissioner of health. The heads of the aforesaid departments 21shall be appointed by the governor, by and with the advice 22 and consent of the Senate of Porto Rico, to hold office at 23pleasure of the governor, and until their successors are ap-24

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pointed and qualified.

Heads of departments shall reside in Porto Rico during their official incumbency and for at least one year prior to their appointment. They may be selected from the elected

4 members of the senate and house of representatives.

The heads of departments shall collectively form a 5 council to the governor, known as the cabinet. They shall 6 perform, under the general supervision of the governor, the 7 duties hereinafter prescribed or which may hereafter be 8 prescribed by law, and such other duties, not inconsistent 9 with law, as the governor may assign to them; and they 10 shall make annual and such other reports to the governor 11 as he may require, copies of which shall be transmitted 12 to the executive department of the Government of the 13 United States, to be designated by the President as herein 14 15 provided: Provided, That the duties herein imposed upon 16 the heads of departments shall not carry with them any 17 additional compensation.

18 SEC. 13. That the attorney general shall have charge of the administration of justice in Porto Rico; he shall be the 19 legal adviser of the governor and the heads of departments 20 and shall be responsible for the proper representation of the 21people of Porto Rico or its duly constituted officers in all 22 actions and proceedings, civil or criminal, in the Supreme 23 Court of Porto Rico in which the people of Porto Rico shall 24 be interested or a party; and he may, if directed by the 25

- 1 governor or if in his judgment the public interest requires it,
- 2 represent the people of Porto Rico or its duly constituted
- 3 officers in any other court or before any other officer or
- 4 board in any action or proceeding, civil or criminal, in
- 5 which the people of Porto Rico may be a party or be inter-
- 6 ested. He shall also perform such other duties, not incon-
- 7 sistent herewith, as may be prescribed by law.
- 8 Sec. 14. That the treasurer shall give bond, approved
- 9 as to form by the attorney general of Porto Rico, in such
- 10 sum as the legislature may require, not less, however, than
- 11 the sum of \$125,000, with surety or sureties approved by
- 12 the governor, and he shall collect and be the custodian of
- 13 public funds, and shall disburse the same in accordance
- 14 with law, on warrants signed by the auditor and counter-
- 15 signed by the governor, and perform such other duties as may
- 16 be provided by law. He may designate banking institu-
- 17 tions in Porto Rico and the United States as depositaries
- 18 of the government of Porto Rico, subject to such conditions
- 19 as may be prescribed by the governor, after they have filed
- 20 with him satisfactory evidence of their sound financial con-
- 21 dition and have deposited bonds of the United States or of
- 22 the government of Porto Rico or other security satisfactory
- 23 to the governor in such amounts as may be indicated
- 24 by him; and no banking institution shall be desig-
- 25 nated a depositary of the government of Porto Rico

- 1 until the foregoing conditions have been complied with.
- 2 Interest on deposits shall be required and paid into the
- 3 treasury.
- 4 SEC. 15. That the commissioner of the interior shall
- 5 superintend all works of a public nature, have charge of
- 6 all public buildings, grounds, and lands, except those be-
- 7 longing to the United States, and shall execute such require-
- 8 ments as may be imposed by law with respect thereto,
- 9 and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by
- 10 law.
- 11 Sec. 16. That the commissioner of education shall
- 12 superintend public instruction throughout Porto Rico; all
- 13 proposed disbursements on account thereof must be ap-
- 14 proved by him, and all courses of study shall be prepared
- 15 by him, subject to disapproval by the governor if he desires
- 16 to act. He shall prepare rules governing the selection
- 17 of teachers, and the appointments of teachers shall be sub-
- 18 ject to his approval, and he shall perform such other duties,
- 19 not inconsistent with this Act, as may be prescribed by
- 20 law.
- SEC. 17. That the commissioner of agriculture and
- 22 labor shall have general charge of such bureaus and branches
- 23 of government as have been or shall be legally constituted
- 24 for the study, advancement, and benefit of agricultural and
- 25 other industries, the chief purpose of this department being

- 1 to foster, promote, and develop the agricultural interests
- 2 and the welfare of the wage earners of Porto Rico, to im-
- 3 prove their working conditions, and to advance their oppor-
- 4 tunities for profitable employment, and shall perform such
- 5 other duties as may be prescribed by law.
- 6 Sec. 18. That the commissioner of health shall have
- 7 charge of all matters relating to public health, sanitation, and
- 8 charities, except such as relate to the conduct of maritime
- 9 quarantine, and shall perform such other duties as may be
- 10 prescribed by law.
- 11 Sec. 19. That there shall be appointed by the Gov-
- 12 ernor of Porto Rico, by and with the advice and consent of
- 13 the senate of Porto Rico, an auditor, at an annual salary of
- 14 \$7,000, for a term of four years and until his successor is ap-
- 15 pointed and qualified, who shall examine, audit, and settle
- 16 all accounts pertaining to the revenues and receipts, from
- 17 whatever source, of the government of Porto Rico and of
- 18 the municipal governments of Porto Rico, including public
- 19 trust funds and funds derived from bond issues; and audit, in
- 20 accordance with law and administrative regulations, all
- 21 expenditures of funds or property pertaining to or held in
- 22 trust by the government of Porto Rico or the municipalities
- 23 or dependencies thereof. He shall perform a like duty with
- 24 respect to all government branches.

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- 1 He shall keep the general accounts of the government
- 2 and preserve the vouchers pertaining thereto.
- 3 It shall be the duty of the auditor to bring to the atten-
- 4 tion of the proper administrative officer expenditures of
- 5 funds or property which, in his opinion, are irregular, un-
- 6 necessary, excessive, or extravagant.
- 7 In case of vacancy or of the absence from duty, from
- 8 any cause, of the auditor, the Governor of Porto Rico may
- 9 designate an assistant, who shall have charge of the office.
- The jurisdiction of the auditor over accounts, whether
- of funds or property, and all vouchers and records pertain-
- ing thereto, shall be exclusive. With the approval of the
- 13 governor he shall, from time to time, make and promulgate
- 14 general or special rules and regulations not inconsistent
- 15 with law covering the methods of accounting for public
- 16 funds and property, and funds and property held in trust
- 17 by the government or any of its branches: Provided, That
- 18 any officer accountable for public funds or property may
- 19 require such additional reports or returns from his subordi-
- 20 nates or others as he may deem necessary for his own in-
- 21 formation and protection.
- The decisions of the auditor shall be final, except that
- 23 appeal therefrom may be taken by the party aggrieved or
- 24 the head of the department concerned within one year, in
- 25 the manner hereinafter prescribed. The auditor shall, except

- 1 as hereinafter provided, have like authority as that conferred
- 2 by the law upon the several auditors of the United States
- 3 and the Comptroller of the United States Treasury, and is
- 4 authorized to communicate directly with any person having
- 5 claims before him for settlement, or with any department,
- 6 officer, or person having official relations with his office.
- As soon after the close of each fiscal year as the accounts
- 8 of said year may be examined and adjusted, the auditors shall
- 9 submit to the governor an annual report of the fiscal con-
- 10 cerns of the Government, showing the receipts and disburse-
- 11 ments of the various departments and bureaus of the Govern-
- ment and of the various municipalities, and make such other
- 13 reports as may be required of him by the governor or the
- 14 head of the executive department of the Government of the
- 15 United States, to be designated by the President as herein
- 16 provided.
- In the execution of his duties the auditor is authorized
- 18 to summon witnesses, administer oaths, and to take evidence,
- 19 and, in the pursuance of these provisions, may issue sub-
- 20 pænas and enforce the attendance of witnesses.
- The office of the auditor shall be under the general
- 22 supervision of the governor and shall consist of the auditor
- 23 and such necessary assistants as may be prescribed by law.
- SEC. 20. That any person aggrieved by the action or
- 25 decision of the auditor in the settlement of his account or

- 1 claim may, within one year, take an appeal in writing to the
- 2 governor, which appeal shall specifically set forth the par-
- 3 ticular action of the auditor to which exception is taken, with
- 4 the reason and authorities relied on for reversing such de-
- 5 cision. The decision of the governor in such case shall be
- 6 final, subject to such right of action as may be otherwise
- 7 provided by law.
- 8 Sec. 21. That there shall be appointed by the governor,
- 9 by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of Porto
- 10 Rico, an executive secretary at an annual salary of \$5,000,
- 11 who shall record and preserve the minutes and proceedings
- 12 of the public service commissioner hereinafter provided for
- 13 and the laws enacted by the legislature and all acts and
- 14 proceedings of the governor, and promulgate all proclama-
- 15 tions and orders of the governor and all laws enacted by the
- 16 legislature, and until otherwise provided by the Legislature
- 17 of Porto Rico perform all the duties of secretary of Porto
- 18 Rico as now provided by law, except as otherwise specified
- 19 in this Act, to perform such other duties as may be assigned
- 20 to him by the Governor of Porto Rico. In the event of a
- 21 vacancy in the office, or the absence, illness, or temporary
- 22 disqualification of such officer, the governor shall designate
- 23 some officer or employee of the government to discharge the
- 24 functions of said office during such vacancy, absence, illness,
- 25 or temporary disqualification.

- 1 Sec. 22. That the Governor of Porto Rico, within sixty
- 2 days after the end of each session of the legislature, shall
- 3 transmit to the executive department of the Government of
- 4 the United States, to be designated as herein provided for,
- 5 which shall in turn transmit the same to the Congress of the
- United States, copies of all laws enacted during the session.
- 7 LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.
- 8 Sec. 23. That all local legislative powers in Porto Rico,
- 9 except as herein otherwise provided, shall be vested in a
- 10 legislature, which shall consist of two houses, one the senate
- and the other the house of representatives, and the two
- houses shall be designated "The Legislature of Porto Rico."
- 13 Sec. 24. That the Senate of Porto Rico shall consist of
- 14 nineteen members elected for terms of four years by the
- 15 qualified electors of Porto Rico. Each of the seven senatorial
- 16 districts defined as hereinafter provided shall have the right
- 17 to elect two senators, and in addition thereto there shall be
- 18 elected five senators at large. No person shall be a member
- 19 of the Senate of Porto Rico who is not over thirty years
- 20 of age and who is not able to read and write either the
- 21 Spanish or English language, and who had not been a resi-
- 22 dent of Porto Rico for at least two consecutive years and,
- 23 except in the case of senators at large, an actual resident of
- 24 the senatorial district from which chosen for a period of at
- 25 least one year prior to his election. Except as herein other-

- wise provided, the Senate of Porto Rico shall exercise all of
- 2 the purely legislative powers and functions that it has here-
- 3 tofore exercised, including confirmation of appointments; but
- 4 appointments made while the senate is not in session shall
- 5 be effective either until disapproved or until the next ad-
- 6 journment of the senate for the session. In electing the
- 7 five senators at large each elector shall be permitted to vote
- 8 for but one candidate, and the five candidates receiving the
- 9 largest number of votes shall be declared elected.
- SEC. 25. That the House of Representatives of Porto 10 Rico shall consist of thirty-nine members, elected quadren-11 nially by the qualified electors of Porto Rico, as hereinafter 12 Each of the representative districts hereinafter 13 provided for shall have the right to elect one representative, 14 and in addition thereto there shall be elected four repre-15 16 sentatives at large. No person shall be a member of the house of representatives who is not over twenty-five years 17 of age and who is not able to read and write either the 18 Spanish or English language, and who has not been a resi-19 dent of Porto Rico for at least two consecutive years prior 20 In electing the four representatives at 21 to such election.

large, each elector shall be permitted to vote for but one

candidate, and the four candidates receiving the largest

24 number of votes shall be elected.

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SEC. 26. That for the purpose of elections hereafter to 1 the legislature the present division of the island of Porto 2 Rico into thirty-five representative districts, composed of 3 contiguous and compact territory and established upon the 4 5 basis of equal population, shall be kept until otherwise pro-Future division of districts shall be 6 vided by the legislature. made as nearly as practicable to conform to the topographical 7 8 nature of the land, with regard to roads and other means of 9 communication and to natural barriers. The legislature shall also divide the island of Porto Rico into seven senatorial dis-10 tricts, each composed of five contiguous and compact repre-11 sentative districts, whenever the present division should be 12 13 deemed no longer correct. SEC. 27. That the next regular election in Porto Rico 14 15 shall be held four years after the last election already held 16 At such election there shall be chosen the in the island. 17 governor, senators, representatives, and one Resident Com-18 missioner to the United States, as herein provided. 19 after the elections shall also be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November: Provided, however, 20 That nothing herein contained shall be construed to limit 21 the right of the Legislature of Porto Rico at any time to 22 revise the boundaries of senatorial and representative dis-23 tricts and of any municipality, or to abolish any munici-24 25 pality and the officers provided therefor.

SEC. 28. That the term of office of senators and repre-1 sentatives chosen shall be four years from the 2d of Janu-2 ary following their election. In case of vacancy among 3 the members of the senate or in the house of representa-4 tives special elections may be held in the districts wherein 5 such vacancy occurred, under such regulations as may be 6 prescribed by law, but senators or representatives elected 7 in such cases shall hold office only for the unexpired portion 8 9 of the term wherein the vacancy occurred, and no senator or representative shall, during the time for which he shall 10 have been elected, be appointed to any civil office under 11 the government of Porto Rico nor be appointed to any office 12 created by act of the legislature during the time for which 13 he shall have been elected until two years after his term of 14 15 office shall have expired. Sec. 29. That members of the Senate and House of 16 Representatives of Porto Rico shall receive compensation at 17 18 the rate of \$10 per day and mileage for each session at the 19 rate of 10 cents per kilometer for each kilometer actually and necessarily traveled in going from their legislative dis-20 tricts to the capital and therefrom to their place of residence 21 in their districts by the usual routes of travel. 22 SEC. 30. That the senate and house of representatives, 23 respectively, shall be the sole judges of the elections, returns, 24 and qualifications of their members, and they shall have 25

- 1 and exercise all the powers with respect to the conduct of
- 2 their proceedings that usually pertain to parliamentary
- 3 legislative bodies. Both houses shall convene at the capital
- 4 on the second Monday in February following the next elec-
- 5 tion, and organize by the election of a speaker or a presiding
- 6 officer, a clerk, and a sergeant at arms for each house, and
- 7 such other officers and assistants as may be required.
- 8 Sec. 31. That the regular sessions of the Legislature
- 9 of Porto Rico, provided for by this Act, shall convene and
- 10 be held biennially, convening on the second Monday in
- 11 February of the year 1925, and on the second Monday in
- 12 February of each second year thereafter. The governor
- 13 may call special sessions of the legislature or of the senate
- 14 at any time when in his opinion the public interest may
- 15 require it, and no legislation shall be considered at such
- session other than that specified in the call, and he shall call
- 17 the senate in special session at least once each year on the
- 18 second Monday in February of those years in which a
- 19 regular session of the legislature is not provided for.
- SEC. 32. That the enacting clause of the laws shall be
- 21 as to acts, "Be it enacted by the Legislature of Porto Rico,"
- 22 and as to joint resolutions, "Be it resolved by the Legisla-
- 23 ture of Porto Rico." Except as hereinafter provided, bills
- 24 and joint resolutions may originate in either house. The
- 25 governor shall submit at the opening of each regular session

of the legislature a budget of receipts and expenditures, 1 which shall be the basis of the ensuing biennial appropria-2 No bill shall become a law until it be passed in 3 tion bill. each house by a majority yea-and-nay vote of all of the 4 members belonging to such house and entered upon the 5 journal and be approved by the governor within ten days 6 If when a bill that has been passed is presented 7 thereafter. to the governor for his signature he approve the same, he 8 shall sign it; or if not, he shall return it, with his objections, 9 to the house in which it originated, which house shall enter 10 his objections at large on its journal and proceed to recon-11 sider it. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds of all 12 the members of that house shall agree to pass the same it 13 shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other house, 14 by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved 15 16 by two-thirds of all the members of that house it shall become 17 If any bill presented to the governor contain several items of appropriation of money, he may object to one or 18 more of such items, or any part or parts, portion or portions 19 thereof, while approving of the other portion of the bill. 20 such case he shall append to the bill, at the time of signing 21 it, a statement of the items, parts, or portions thereof to 22 which he objects, and the appropriation so objected to shall 23 not take effect. If any bill shall not be returned by the 24 governor within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall 25

1 have been presented to him, it shall be a law in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the legislature by adjournment 2 3prevents its return, in which case it shall be a law if signed 4 by the governor within thirty days after receipt by him; otherwise it shall not be a law. All laws enacted by the 5 Legislature of Porto Rico shall be reported to the Congress 6 of the United States, as provided in section 23 of this Act, 7 which hereby reserves the power and authority to annul the 8 9If at the termination of any fiscal year the appro-10 priations necessary for the support of the government for 11 the ensuing fiscal year shall not have been made, the several 12 sums appropriated in the last appropriation bills for the objects and purposes therein specified, so far as the same 13 14 may be applicable, shall be deemed to be reappropriated item by item; and until the legislature shall act in such behalf 15 16 the treasurer may, with the advice of the governor, make the payments necessary for the purposes aforesaid. 17 18 The house of representatives shall have the sole power 19 of impeachment; but by a vote of two-thirds of all members 20 present shall be required to impeach any officer, and all 21impeachments shall be tried by the senate. When sitting 22for that purpose the senators shall be upon oath or affirma-23 tion, and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the senators present. The senate may 24 adjourn to a fixed day for the trial of any impeachment, and 25

- 1 may sit for the purpose of such trial whether the house of
- 2 representatives be in session or not, but the time fixed for
- 3 such trial shall not be more than six months from the time
- 4 articles of impeachment shall be preferred by the house of
- 5 representatives. The chief justice shall preside at all trials
- 6 by impeachment. The governor shall be liable to impeach-
- 7 ment for any misdemeanor in office, but judgment in such
- 8 cases shall extend only to removal from office and disqualifi-
- 9 cation to hold any office of honor, trust, or profit under the
- 10 insular government; but the party convicted or acquitted
- 11 shall nevertheless be liable to indictment, trial, and punish-
- 12 ment according to law.
- Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and
- 14 may, in its discretion, from time to time publish the same,
- 15 and the yeas and nays on any question shall, on the demand
- 16 of one-fifth of the members present, be entered on the
- 17 journal.
- The sessions of each house and of the committees of
- 19 the whole shall be open.
- Neither house shall, without the consent of the other,
- 21 adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place
- 22 than that in which the two houses shall be sitting.
- No law shall be passed except by bill, and no bill shall
- 24 be so altered or amended on its passage through either house
- 25 as to change its original purpose.

- No act of the legislature except the general appropria-
- 2 tion bills for the expenses of the government shall take effect
- 3 until ninety days after its passage, unless in case of emer-
- 4 gency (which shall be expressed in the preamble or body
- 5 of the act) the legislature shall by a vote of two-thirds of
- 6 all the members elected to each house otherwise direct. No
- 7 bill, except the general appropriation bill for the expenses
- 8 of the government only, introduced in either house of the
- 9 legislature after the first forty days of the session, shall be-
- 10 come a law.
- No bill shall be considered or become a law unless
- 12 referred to a committee, returned therefrom, and printed
- 13 for the use of the members: Provided, That either house
- 14 may, by a majority vote, discharge a committee from the
- 15 consideration of a measure and bring it before the body for
- 16 consideration.
- No bill, except general appropriation bills, shall be
- 18 passed containing more than one subject, which shall be
- 19 clearly expressed in its title; but if any subject shall be
- 20 embraced in any act which shall not be expressed in the
- 21 title, such act shall be void only as to so much thereof as shall
- 22 not be so expressed.
- No law shall be revived, or amended, or the provi-
- 24 sions thereof extended or conferred by reference to its title

- only; but so much thereof as is revived, amended, extended,
- 2 or conferred shall be reenacted and published at length.
- 3 The presiding officer of each house shall, in the pres-
- 4 ence of the house over which he presides, sign all bills and
- 5 joint resolutions passed by the legislature, after their titles
- 6 shall have been publicly read immediately before signing;
- 7 and the fact of signing shall be entered on the journal.
- The legislature shall prescribe by law the number,
- 9 duties, and compensation of the officers and employees of
- 10 each house; and no payment shall be made for services to
- 11 the legislature from the treasury, or be in any way author-
- 12 ized to any person, except to an acting officer or employee
- 13 elected or appointed in pursuance of law.
- No bill shall be passed giving any extra compensation
- 15 to any public officer, servant or employee, agent or con-
- 16 tractor, after services shall have been rendered or con-
- 17 tract made.
- Except as otherwise provided in this Act no law shall
- 19 extend the term of any public officer, or increase or diminish
- 20 his salary or emoluments after his election or appointment,
- 21 nor permit any officer or employee to draw compensation
- 22 for more than one office or position.
- All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the house
- 24 of representatives, but the senate may propose or concur
- 25 with amendments, as in case of other bills.

- 1 The general appropriation bill shall embrace nothing
- 2 but appropriations for the ordinary expense of the execu-
- 3 tive, legislative, and judicial departments, interest on the
- 4 public debt, and for public schools. All other appropriations
- 5 shall be made by separate bills, each embracing but one
- 6 subject.
- 7 Every order, resolution, or vote to which the concur-
- 8 rence of both houses may be necessary, except on the ques-
- 9 tion of adjournment, or relating solely to the transaction of
- 10 business of the two houses, shall be presented to the gov-
- 11 ernor, and before it shall take effect be approved by him, or,
- 12 being disapproved, shall be repassed by two-thirds of both
- 13 houses, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in
- 14 case of a bill.
- Any person who shall, directly or indirectly, offer, give,
- or promise any money or thing of value, testimonial, privi-
- 17 lege, or personal advantage to any executive or judicial
- 18 officer or member of the legislature to influence him in the
- 19 performance of any of his public or official duties, shall be
- deemed guilty of bribery and be punished by a fine not ex-
- 21 ceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment not exceeding five years,
- 22 or both.
- The offense of corrupt solicitation of members of the
- 24 legislature, or of public officers of Porto Rico, or of any
- 25 municipal division thereof, and any occupation or practice

- 1 of solicitation of such members or officers to influence their
- 2 official action, shall be defined by law, and shall be punished
- 3 by fine and imprisonment.
- 4 In case the available revenues of Porto Rico for any
- 5 fiscal year, including available surplus in the insular treas-
- 6 ury, are insufficient to meet all the appropriations made by
- 7 the legislature for such year, such appropriations shall be
- 8 paid in the following order, unless otherwise directed by the
- 9 governor:
- 10 First class. The ordinary expenses of the legislative,
- 11 executive, and judicial departments of the State government,
- 12 and interest on any public debt, shall first be paid in full.
- 13 Second class. Appropriations for all institutions, such
- 14 as the penitentiary, insane asylum, industrial school, and
- 15 the like, where the inmates are confined involuntarily, shall
- 16 next be paid in full,
- 17 Third class. Appropriations for education and educa-
- 18 tional and charitable institutions shall next be paid in full.
- 19 Fourth class. Appropriations for any other officer or
- 20 officers, bureau, or boards shall next be paid in full.
- 21 Fifth class. Appropriations for all other purposes shall
- 22 next be paid.
- That in case there are not sufficient revenues for any
- 24 fiscal year, including available surplus in the insular treas-
- 25 ury, to meet in full the appropriations of said year for all

of the said classes of appropriations, then said revenues 1 shall be applied to the classes in the order above named, 2 and if, after the payment of the prior clases in full, there 3 are not sufficient revenues for any fiscal year to pay in full 4 the appropriations for that year for the next class, then, in 5 that event, whatever there may be to apply on account of 6 appropriations for said class shall be distributed among said 7 appropriations pro rata according as the amount of each 8 appropriation of that class shall bear to the total amount of 9 all of said appropriations for that class for such fiscal year. 10 No appropriation shall be made, nor any expenditure 11 authorized by the legislature, whereby the expenditure of 12 the government of Porto Rico during any fiscal year shall 13 exceed the total revenue then provided for by law and 14 applicable for such appropriation or expenditure, including 15 any available surplus in the treasury, unless the legislature 16 making such appropriation shall provide for levying a 17 sufficient tax to pay such appropriation or expenditure 18 within such fiscal year. 19 SEC. 33. That at the first election held pursuant to this 20 Act the qualified electors shall be those having the qualifica-21 tions of voters under the present law. Thereafter voters 22 shall be citizens of the United States and of Porto Rico 23 twenty-one years of age or over and have such additional 24

- 1 qualifications as may be prescribed by the Legislature of
- 2 Porto Rico: Provided, That no property qualifications shall
- 3 ever be imposed upon or required of any voter.
- 4 Sec. 34. That the qualified electors of Porto Rico shall
- 5 at all general elections choose one Resident Commissioner
- 6 to the United States, whose term of office shall be four
- 7 years from the 4th of March following such general elec-
- 8 tion, and who shall be entitled to receive official recognition
- 9 as such Commissioner by all of the departments of the
- 10 Government of the United States, upon presentation, through
- 11 the Department of State, of a certificate of election of the
- 12 Governor of Porto Rico. The Resident Commissioner shall
- 13 receive the same salary and mileage, also the same sum
- 14 for stationery and pay for necessary clerk hire, as is now
- 15 allowed to Members of the House of Representatives of the
- 16 United States, and the franking privilege granted Members
- 17 of Congress. No person shall be eligible to election as
- 18 Resident Commissioner who is not a bona fide citizen of the
- 19 United States and of Porto Rico, born either in the United
- 20 States or in the said island, who is not less than twenty-
- 21 five years of age and who does not read and write
- 22 the English language. In case of a vacancy in the office
- 23 of Resident Commissioner, by death, resignation, or other-
- 24 wise, the governor, by and with the advice and consent
- 25 of the senate, shall appoint a Resident Commissioner to fill

- 1 the vacancy, who shall serve until the next general elec-
- 2 tion and until his successor is elected and qualified.
- 3 Sec. 35. That the legislative authority herein pro-
- 4 vided shall extend to all matters of a legislative character not
- 5 locally inapplicable, including power to create, consolidate,
- 6 and reorganize the municipalities so far as may be necessary,
- 7 and to provide and repeal laws and ordinances therefor;
- 8 also the power to alter, amend, modify, or repeal any or all
- 9 laws and ordinances of every character now in force in Porto
- 10 Rico or municipality or district thereof in so far as such
- 11 alteration, amendment, modification, or repeal may be con-
- 12 sistent with the provisions of this Act.
- No executive department not provided for in this Act
- 14 shall be created by the legislature, but the legislature may
- 15 consolidate departments or abolish any department with the
- 16 consent of the President of the United States.
- 17 Sec. 36. That all grants of franchises, rights, and
- 18 privileges of a public or quasi public nature shall be made
- 19 by a public service commissioner, to be appointed by the
- 20 governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate
- 21 of Porto Rico, to hold office for the term of four years and
- 22 until his successor is duly appointed and qualified. His
- 23 compensation shall be \$7,500 annually. The said com-
- 24 missioner is also empowered and directed to discharge all
- 25 the executive functions relating to public service corporations

- 1 heretofore conferred by law upon the public service com-
- 2 mission. Franchises, rights, and privileges granted by the
- 3 said commissioner shall not be effective until approved by
- 4 the governor.
- 5 The Interstate Commerce Act and the several amend-
- 6 ments made or to be made thereto, the Safety Appliance
- 7 Acts, and the several amendments made or to be made
- 8 thereto, and the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to amend
- 9 an Act entitled 'An Act to regulate commerce,' approved
- 10 February 4, 1887, and all Acts amendatory thereof, by
- 11 providing for a valuation of the several classes of property
- 12 of carriers subject thereto and securing information concern-
- 13 ing their stocks, bonds, and other securities," approved
- 14 March 1, 1913, shall not apply to Porto Rico.
- 15 The Legislative Assembly of Porto Rico is hereby
- 16 authorized to enact laws relating to the regulation of the
- 17 rates, tariffs, and service of public carriers by rail in Porto
- 18 Rico, and the public service commissioner hereby provided
- 19 shall have power to enforce such laws under appropriate
- 20 regulation.
- SEC. 37. That all grants of franchises and privileges
- 22 under the section last preceding shall provide that the same
- 23 shall be subject to amendment, alteration, or repeal, and
- 24 shall forbid the issue of stocks or bonds except in exchange
- 25 for actual cash or property at a fair valuation, to be de-

- 1 termined by the public-service commissioner, equal in
- 2 amount to the par value of the stocks or bonds issued, and
- 3 shall forbid the declaring of stock or bond dividends, and in
- 4 the case of public service corporations shall provide for the
- 5 effective regulation of charges thereof and for the purchase
- 6 or taking of their property by the authorities at a fair and
- 7 reasonable valuation.
- 8 That nothing in this Act contained shall be so con-
- 9 strued as to abrogate or in any manner impair or affect
- 10 the provision contained in section 3 of the joint resolution
- 11 approved May 1, 1900, with respect to the buying, selling,
- or holding of real estate: Provided, however, That the restric-
- 13 tions imposed to corporations on the ownership and control
- of land shall be limited to three thousand acres.
- 15 Sec. 38. That the execution of the laws of the United
- 16 States relating to immigration, to tariffs, customs, and
- 17 duties on importations into the United States and the regu-
- 18 lations made pursuant thereto shall be effected in Porto Rico
- 19 through officials appointed by the governor of Porto Rico,
- 20 by and with the advice and consent of the senate of the
- 21 said island.
- JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.
- SEC. 39. That the judicial power shall be vested in
- 24 the courts and tribunals of Porto Rico now established and
- 25 in operation under and by virtue of existing laws. The

jurisdiction of said courts and the form of procedure in 1 them, and the various officers and attachés thereof, shall 2 also continue to be as now provided until otherwise pro-3 vided by law: Provided, however, That the supreme court 4 and the district courts shall have jurisdiction of all cases 5 6 cognizable in the district courts of the United States, with the same power and jurisdiction to dispose of these cases 7 8 as the territorial courts in the Territories of Hawaii and 9 In addition the supreme court shall have jurisdic-Alaska. tion for the naturalization of aliens and Porto Ricans, and 10 for this purpose residence in Porto Rico shall be counted 11 in the same manner as residence elsewhere in the United 12 13 States. The chief justice and associate justices of the su-14 preme court shall be appointed by the governor, by and with 15 the advice and consent of the Senate of Porto Rico; and 16 the Legislature of Porto Rico shall have authority, from time **17** to time, as it may see fit, not inconsistent with this Act, to 18 organize, modify, or arrange the courts and their jurisdiction 19 and procedure. All judgments rendered by the Supreme 20 Court of Porto Rico shall be final, except in case of the 21interpretation of a constitutional provision, treaty, or of a 22 law enacted by the Congress of the United States. 23 Sec. 40. That the supreme and district courts of Porto 24 Rico and the respective judges thereof may grant writs

of habeas corpus in all cases in which the same are grantable

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- 1 by the judges of the district courts of the United States,
- 2 and the supreme court and district courts may grant writs
- 3 of mandamus in all proper cases.
- 4. Sec. 41. That hereafter all judges, marshals, and sec-
- 5 retaries of courts now established or that may hereafter be
- 6 established in Porto Rico, and whose appointment by the
- 7 President is not provided for by law, shall be appointed by
- 8 the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the
- 9 Senate of Porto Rico.
- 10 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.
- 11 Sec. 42. That, except as in this Act otherwise provided
- 12 the salaries of all the officials of Porto Rico not appointed
- 13 by the President, including deputies, assistants, and other
- 14 help, shall be such and be so paid out of the revenues of
- 15 Porto Rico as shall from time to time be determined by
- 16 the Legislature of Porto Rico and approved by the gov-
- 17 ernor; and if the legislature shall fail to make an appro-
- 18 priation for such salaries, the salaries theretofore fixed shall
- 19 be paid without the necessity of further appropriations
- 20 therefor. The salaries of all officers and all expenses of the
- 21 offices of the various officials of Porto Rico appointed as
- 22 herein provided by the President shall also be paid out of
- 23 the revenues of Porto Rico on warrant of the auditor, coun-
- 24 tersigned by the governor. The annual salary of the
- 25 governor shall be \$10,000; in addition thereto he shall

- 1 be entitled to the occupancy of the buildings heretofore
- 2 used by the chief executive of Porto Rico, with the fur-
- 3 niture and effects therein, free of rental; and the salaries of
- 4 heads of executive departments, chief justice of the supreme
- 5 court, and associate justices of the supreme court shall be
- 6 fixed by the Legislature of Porto Rico.
- 7 Where any officer whose salary is fixed by this Act is
- 8 required to give a bond, the premium thereof shall be paid
- 9 from the insular treasury.
- 10 Sec. 43. That the provisions of the foregoing section
- 11 shall not apply to municipal officials; their salaries and the
- 12 compensation of their deputies, assistants, and other help,
- 13 as well as all other expenses incurred by the municipalities,
- 14 shall be paid out of the municipal revenues, in such manner
- 15 as the legislature shall provide.
- SEC. 44. That any bureau or office belonging to any
- 17 of the regular departments of the government, or hereafter
- 18 created, or not assigned, may be transferred or assigned to
- 19 any department by the governor with the approval of the
- 20 Senate of Porto Rico.
- SEC. 45. That deeds and other instruments affecting
- 22 land situate in the District of Columbia, or any other terri-
- 23 tory or possession of the United States, may be acknowl-
- 24 edged in Porto Rico before any notary public appointed
- 25 therein by proper authority, or any officer therein who has

- 1 ex officio the powers of a notary public: Provided, That the
- 2 certificate by such notary shall be accompanied by the cer-
- 3 tificate of the executive secretary of Porto Rico to the effect
- 4 that the notary taking such acknowledgment is in fact such
- 5 notarial officer.
- 6 Sec. 46. That nothing in this Act shall be deemed to
- 7 impair or interrupt the jurisdiction of existing courts over
- 8 matters pending therein upon the approval of this Act,
- 9 which jurisdiction is in all respects hereby continued, the
- 10 purpose of this Act being to preserve the integrity of all of
- 11 said courts and their jurisdiction until otherwise specifically
- 12 provided.
- 13 Sec. 47. That this Act shall take effect upon approval,
- 14 but until its provisions shall severally become operative, as
- 15 hereinbefore provided, the corresponding legislative and
- 16 executive functions of the government in Porto Rico shall
- 17 continue to be exercised and in full force and operation as
- 18 now provided by law.
- 19 Sec. 48. That the laws and ordinances of Porto Rico
- 20 now in force shall continue in force and effect, except as
- 21 altered, amended, or modified herein, until altered, amended,
- 22 or repealed by the legislative authority herein provided for
- 23 Porto Rico or by Act of Congress of the United States; and
- 24 such legislative authority shall have power, when not incon-

- 1 sistent with this Act, by due enactment to amend, alter,
- 2 modify, or repeal any law or ordinance, civil or criminal,
- 3 continued in force by this Act as it may from time to time
- 4 see fit.
- 5 Sec. 49. That all laws or parts of laws applicable to
- 6 Porto Rico not in conflict with any of the provisions of this
- 7 Act, including the laws relating to tariffs, customs, and
- 8 duties on importations into Porto Rico prescribed by the
- 9 Act of Congress entitled "An Act temporarily to provide
- 10 revenues and a civil government for Porto Rico, and for
- 11 other purposes," approved April 12, 1900, are hereby
- 12 continued in effect, and all laws and parts of laws inconsistent
- 13 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

# A BILL

To provide a civil government for Porto Rico, and for other purposes.

By Mr. Cordova-Davila.

**DECEMBER 17, 1923.** 

Referred to the Committee on Insular Affairs and ordered to be printed.