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PORTO RICO AND GOVERNOR REILY.

At a mass meeting of the Porto Rican
colony in this town day before yesterday
resolutions were adopted notifying Presi-
dent HARDING and both houses of Con-
gress that Governor REILY is, in the
opinion of these protestants, an unfit
person to continue in office. The Gov-
ernor is charged with the utterance of
"Executive public expressions unbecom-
ing an American official," with "personal
prejudices impairing the smooth course
of public business," and with "an avowed
attempt to suppress the Spanish
language in the Porto Rican public
schools." The resolutions, if we rightly
understand them, suggest the removal
of the Governor from office for these
reasons.

How far the gentlemen who make
this highly original suggestion to Presi-
dent HARDING are numerically representa-
tive of Porto Rican sentiment in New
York we are not informed. But THE
NEW YORK HERALD is very sure that
steemed Americans of insular birth
could be in better business for the true
welfare of the beautiful island they love
if their motives must be either politics or
patriotism. If it is politics, it is the
politics of a sinister cause, namely, the
political movement of the Independistas
through propaganda aiming at the se-
cession of Porto Rico. If it is patriot-
ism, it is not American patriotism but
something else.

Governor REILY was President HARD-
ING'S personal choice for a post of ex-
ceptional difficulty and delicacy, owing to
the headway the Lone Star Sentiment
had made in the island in recent years,
the able and adroit

politicians who have used it for all it was
worth to the very practical purposes of
local control, local offices and local ex-
penditures. Mr. REILY was a business
man in Kansas City. Little was known
to the general public of his capacity for
responsible statesmanship in an unusual
situation before the President picked
him out and sent him down to the Palace
in San Juan to tell disaffected elements
that Porto Rico's future is Statehood and
not separation from the United States.

The new Governor had not been many
hours in the island before his quality
and texture were manifest to all con-
cerned. His inaugural clarified a situ-
ation which was becoming decidedly
turbid. It declared plainly the main fact
and the purpose from which the Gov-
ernor has not departed and will not
depart.

"I want you to be fully aware," he
said, "that there is no room in Porto
Rico for any foreigner who is not willing
to support and uphold our established
Government. Neither is there any sym-
pathy or hope in the United States for
independence for Porto Rico, from any
individual or any political party. Neither
my friends, is there any place in these
islands for any flag save the flag of our
beloved and common country. So long
as Old Glory continues to wave over the
United States, we will never wave
over Porto Rico."

In effect, the COLUMBUS and the
egg, so simple and direct and natural a
denunciation of the one way to treat
the Porto Rican situation. As events have
proceeded in the island, there can no
longer be any doubt in any mind that
what Governor REILY said he really
meant, or that what he said and meant
represents the fixed and unalterable pur-
poses of the Government and people of
the United States.

The whole policy and the whole pro-
gramme regarding Porto Rico's future
is in the foregoing. The new Governor
stated the case adequately, fearlessly,
temperately, but in language the mean-
ing of which cannot be mistaken. That
there should be resistance in some quar-
ters was to have been expected. The Lone
Star idea could not disappear between
noon and sunset. The political interest
of Independista leaders in its mainten-
ance was too great to be abandoned at
first call. But the leaders have learned
the nature of the stuff that is in the
Executive, "the only one island execu-
tive," as *El Tiempo* puts it, "the Gov-
ernor."

The Governor has kept to his announc-

ed course with personal suavity and good
humor, but inflexibly. The Indepen-
dentista politicians have discovered that
they are facing a man who knows why
he is in the Palace and what he is
about. Recently when the titular "lea-
der of the Independista party", Don
ANTONIO BARCELO, President of the
Senate, addressed to the Governor a let-
ter suggesting certain names for ap-
pointment to an important office and
intimating in words savoring of attempt-
ed dictation that a conference on the
subject might have been arranged, the
Governor replied: "I am sorry, my
dear BARCELO, that you still fail to
comprehend my business here. You
seem not to understand that the old or-
der has changed. . . . You must sever your
connection with the Independence party
and become a local Porto Rican Ameri-
can or we cannot have any friendly po-
litical relations. I want you fully to
understand that I shall never appoint
any one to any office who is an advo-
cate of Independence. . . . All my ap-
pointments will be made strictly by me
as I do not intend to be hampered or
hindered."

This is the real reason why here in
New York certain followers of the somew-
what disconcerted leaders at San Juan
assuming to advise President HARDING
and the Congress of the United States
that Governor REILY is unfit for
post. As we have already remarked,
they might be in better business.
The American public will appraise their
illiberal protest at its actual value. Gov-
ernor REILY will continue the good work
he has begun. Porto Rico will some-
day become a State in this Union's
brotherhood of States, but it will never
become a republic independent of the Uni-
ted States.

Furthermore, THE NEW YORK HER-
ALD firmly believes that separation and
the Lone Star flag are the last things
desired by the intelligent or even the
numerical majority of the native popu-
lation. The incidental conflict with
fish politics will soon be over. Look
to the flag with many stars in its
field and to the present relations
between mainland and island while
Porto Rico's destinies.—*The New
Herald Sept. 6th.*

Dr. McDonald's Alman
For 1922
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CARL SCHOU'S SODA SHOP.