

Seven domestic corporations were voluntarily dissolved and 16 foreign corporations ceased to do business in Porto Rico during the fiscal year. Of said 16 foreign corporations, 6 were German insurance companies which had been operating in Porto Rico for a long term of years and were obliged to discontinue their business for the duration of the war, in obedience to the Executive order issued by the President of the United States on July 13, 1917.

More information about this matter may be found in the tabulated statement hereto attached.

ASSOCIATIONS NOT FOR PECUNIARY PROFIT.

Incorporated and registered in this office under the laws of Porto Rico in 1917-18.....
Dissolved in the same period.....
Organized outside of Porto Rico, which ceased to do business in the same fiscal year.....

Of the 12 nonpecuniary associations incorporated, 3 were religious, 2 professional, to promote agriculture, 2 fraternal, 2 beneficial, and 1 charitable.

Lists relative to all the associations above referred to, as well as lists of all nonpecuniary associations, both domestic and foreign, doing business in Porto Rico on June 30, 1918, are attached hereto.

UNITED STATES PATENTS AND TRADE-MARKS.

Forty-six United States letters patent and 23 United States trade-marks were registered in this office, in accordance with the provisions of sections 58 and 59 of the Political Code. Said registration was secured through the filing of certified copies of registrations made by the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C.

In the matter of registration of patents, Porto Rico has no jurisdiction, as it is Federal service. In regard to trade-marks, Porto Rico has its own law, and the owners of United States trade-marks generally have also registered them as domestic trade-marks, so as to obtain full protection under the local law, because the scope of the protection afforded to them by the United States registration for use in interstate commerce or in commerce with foreign nations is not known. This question is one of judicial determination and only a court of competent jurisdiction may pass upon it.

DOMESTIC TRADE-MARKS.

Sixty-two domestic trade-marks were registered in 1917-18 and three were denied registration, as they so nearly resembled the lawful trade-mark of another person as to be likely to deceive purchasers, with loss and damage to the owner of the similar trade-mark already in use.

The 62 trade-marks registered were applicable to the sale of the following articles:

Petroleum products.....
Electrical apparatus.....
Cement for construction.....
Paper and stationery.....
Musical instruments and supplies.....
Motor vehicles and parts thereof.....
Fertilizer.....
Refrigerating units.....
Nonalcoholic beverages.....
Fancy goods.....
Foods and ingredients of foods.....
Paints and painters' materials.....
Horological instruments and parts thereof.....
Heating apparatus.....
Coffee.....
Clothing.....
Medicines.....
Photographic apparatus and parts thereof.....
Construction materials.....
Hardware.....
Publications.....
Machines.....
Alcoholic beverages.....

Total.....

OLD SPANISH ARCHIVES.

The classification and indexing of the documents of these archives is slowly progressing, on account of lack of personnel. Only two employees are devoted to this work, and they very often have to be used for the prompt dispatch of other matters claiming immediate attention and which can not be taken up by any other employee.

due to the congestion of work always existing in this office since the entrance of the United States into the war. During the fiscal year, a total number of 4,479 expedientes were examined, and 11 files were formed with 709 classified expedientes, the balance of 3,770 expedientes having been set apart as without importance and useless for any purpose. The total number of the new files now reaches 335, with 26,969 expedientes.

Two new rooms on the lower floor of the executive mansion were secured by the undersigned for the purpose of placing there, in better conditions of ventilation and cleaning, the files containing the classified expedientes, and after said rooms were duly prepared and painted, those files were transferred to them and placed in proper shelves. But the remaining 8,000 unclassified files still are in the awful condition described in my last annual report.

Three hundred and ninety-two certified copies of the declarations made by Spaniards born in the Spanish Peninsula to preserve their allegiance to the Crown of Spain were issued by this office in 1917-18, and the search for the original documents and the information given in other cases, verbally or by mail, to persons interested in said declarations, took a great part of the time of the archivist and his assistant. These certified copies were requested for the purpose of presenting them to the local boards in charge of the execution of the selective-service law, in support of claims of exemption from military service, generally made by the sons of the declarants, on the ground of foreign nationality.

The moths and the comejen are continuing rapidly their destructive work on the papers of the old régime. Notwithstanding the historical value of many of them, and the urgent appeals made by this office for a number of years to have said papers kept in a more suitable place than the one heretofore used for such a purpose, nothing has been done in that direction, and the complete loss of most of these valuable records will promptly be an accomplished fact, if some steps are not taken to avoid it without any delay.

Year by year this office has requested:

- (1) That these old records be removed to another government building where they may be kept and preserved in good condition;
- (2) that they be placed under the custody of the board of trustees of the Carnegie Library, where they properly belong; and
- (3) that a sufficient appropriation be made for such removal, keeping, and preservation, and for bringing to an end in the shortest time possible, the work of classification and indexing of the documents so that they may be available for future use.

From time to time statements have been given to the press as to important historical events mentioned in some of the documents examined, with a view of awakening public opinion and create some demand on the part of the people for a better preservation of these original sources of their history, but I have painfully to confess that this effort has not found the general support I was looking for.

I again strongly recommend that the above-mentioned measures be adopted so as to avoid the just criticism of the future historians of this island who will be prevented from using this excellent material when they try to reconstruct the events that happened in Porto Rico during the last centuries of the Spanish domination.

HUNTING LICENSES.

Section 8 of the game law of April 13, 1916, was amended in the first session of the ninth legislature, in order to fix the closed season for hunting wild pigeons of all kinds, turtle doves and partridges, from November 1 to June 1. In the original law, the hunting of such birds was prohibited from the 1st of January until the 15th of July, but it is the belief of the game experts that the new closed season is more in accordance with the old one with the times in which the young of said class of birds are reproduced and bred.

As this office was expecting, due to its efforts and the earnest cooperation of the department of justice and the insular police force, the number of hunting licenses issued during 1917-18 was 115, or 65 per cent more than in 1916-17. So the number of unlicensed hunters, if any still exist, is reduced to the minimum, and at the same time a careful watch is maintained by the police to avoid transgressions of the provisions of law relative to the closed seasons.

After the war was declared, and in view of the fact that a license for hunting gives to the bearer thereof the right to carry all kinds of shotguns and other arms the use of which may be adapted to hunting, this office has taken all necessary precautions in the issuance of such licenses so as not to grant the privilege of carrying arms to unreliable persons or persons whose loyalty to the Nation was not absolutely free from doubt.

The fee to be paid for a hunting license is \$10 in internal-revenue stamps.