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Puerto Rico Advances

Puerto Rico's economic situation is getting better. Not more than ten years ago it looked hopeless. With a population of 520 persons per square mile the island was one of the most densely peopled regions in the world. The annual per capita income was only \$119, and no increase in manufacturing had occurred in a decade.

A change for the better began in 1938, when Munoz Marin organized the Popular Democratic Party. He was a Puerto Rican who had been brought up in New York City, attended Georgetown University and worked on a Baltimore newspaper. With a program of economic reform the new party got control of the legislature in 1940, and has retained it by sweeping majorities ever since. Marin got a hundred new industries established, and now less than 36 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture. Tourists have been encouraged, and are already a great asset. The birth rate is falling off, and it begins to look as if Puerto Rico were getting out of the wods.

As part of the United States with territorial status, Puerto Rico is of deep concern to us. Its progress is gratifying.