

WAR DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF INSULAR AFFAIRS,
WASHINGTON.



July 5, 1916.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am told that the appointment of Mr. A. T. Ruan to the position of Financial Adviser to the Haitian Government has been held up because of the fact that Mr. Ruan did not speak French.

It would, of course, be an additional advantage if Mr. Ruan could speak French, but it would probably be impossible to find a man who would have the absolutely necessary qualifications which Mr. Ruan has because of his long experience with government finance, particularly with those governments with which we are connected which are most similar to Haiti, Mr. Ruan's experience having been with the Cuban Government, with the Porto Rican Government, with the Philippine Government, and with Santo Domingo.

I may cite an instance of the difficulty of getting an American with financial training and a knowledge of French which has come within my own recent experience. At about the beginning of the present European war the National Bank of Haiti lost its resident manager. This Bank is controlled by American, French and German financial interests, and because of this it was deemed

advisable to obtain as a resident manager in Haiti a native-born American citizen. This position paid, as I recall, \$10,000 per annum. The representatives in this country of the Bank made every effort to obtain a native-born American citizen speaking French and having the necessary knowledge of banking to fit the position. They were unable to find such a person. I was appealed to by Mr. Schuster, of the firm of Speyer & Company of New York, to recommend such a person and, after looking over the personnel having had anything to do with finance in connection with the insular governments for a number of years, I was unable to find any one whom I could recommend as suitable to the position. I later suggested a retired Army officer who had the necessary knowledge of French, but this officer was without any special banking training. I do not know who was finally designated for the position.

I cite the foregoing simply to show the difficulty of finding a man having a knowledge of French and yet having the other requirements, for I believe that the other requirements in the case of a Financial Adviser are much more difficult to secure than in the case of the manager of the Haitian National Bank.

In this particular case the Financial Adviser would have little or no dealing with the public in Haiti, and his dealing with the Haitian Government would of necessity be largely with or through the American Minister in Haiti.

Very sincerely,


Chief of Bureau.