

International Insurance Company

No. 80 MAIDEN LANE

SUMNER BALLARD, PRESIDENT
DANIEL F. GORDON } VICE-PRESIDENTS
F. KORTENBEUTEL } AND SECRETARIES
A. GEBERTH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY

NEW YORK, March 3, 1924

Dear Manuel:-

I think we told you in previous letters, and you may, in fact, have known that Anna had friends in New York. She always spoke of them as her relatives, a Tomas Vicente, at 345 East 101st Street, who has been here about six months and I understand is married, and also his brother-in-law, whose name, I understand is also Vicente.

Get Anna had visited them twice on Sundays, I believe, and on Saturday one came to tell us that Anna is sick in her stomach and that she wants to take a rest of 20 to 25 days, that she would go with them where she could get Spanish food to recuperate, then come back to us and stay until Ferrandos come back, but that she then very likely would leave us, however, under no condition to return to Ferrandos, as she is afraid of Mrs. Ferrando's treatment.

I made matters clear to him, that Anna being placed in our trust could not go until we had submitted the matter to you, and asked for your decision. While talking with the man Anna had packed up and had all her things downstairs, Elsie not knowing anything about it at all. After I had convinced the man of our situation, he left Anna and went away, Anna unpacking her things again.

That Anna had written notes in Spanish, often taking Elsie's best stationery, and left them laying around the house, containing the most childish trends of thought over which Wilhelmina was much amused, also Jack, I think I have already written you. I never pay any attention to these things so I do not know what was written. One, however, seemed to have been of a more serious nature, which Jack said, before he left for the Isle of Pines, he would keep in case anything should ever develop. Another one was written recently in which she stated that ~~she wants to have a position, that~~ she could get a position as a dressmaker where she could make \$25.00 a week, that she liked it in our house very much, and that she began to love Mother for the last week, or so, signing it with, "Your servant, Anna Perez."

With Saturday's event we thought the matter was settled, and that we could communicate with you. Yesterday, however, on Sunday in the afternoon the man returned with his brother-in-law who has been here about five or six years and who speaks a better English as well as understanding English

better. He repeated what was said the day before, but went into it more thoroughly by saying that Anna has never had any money. ^{also} She has been working, that even letters from relatives in Porto Rico have complained about it to them, and that she wants to get some other place where she can earn more money, repeating that she has nothing to complain of in our house, but that she would not consider returning to you, and going so far as to state that while she was in Florida Mrs. Ferrando threatened to beat her. Fortunately Edith had mentioned the situation to Elsie when Anna got one of her tantrums, as she had several times in our house, and so we told him just what the situation was, and that she suffers from temporary sullenness, and that during such times she needs watching.

I asked them whether they are related to her, and he told me no. Later on in the evening Wilhelmina mentioned to us that Anna was at that time constantly talking to the man through the door, urging him to say, "Say I am your cousin," but he did not make any remark to us about it, merely saying that they have been neighbors for years in Porto Rico and that they have known them all their lives.

I again put the situation before him, as I did the other man the day before, and he saw the point, that it was necessary for us to write you first and that Anna should wait until we hear from you. In the meantime Anna had gone upstairs and had packed her things again, and Wilhelmina and her two girl friends who were in the library and standing also in the hall noticed that the other man mentioned ^{later} that she should go out, so when the two men left agreeing that they will wait until we hear from you, Anna made a dash through the kitchen door, the girls telling us that Anna had run away just at the time I was saying good-bye to the two men at the front door, so I went out and called Anna, who was then already on the sidewalk, but she just shook her head and walked away.

This made the two men hesitate, and the one with the better understanding of English came back into the house and said to us that he was very sorry that this occurred, because he did not want it himself, that he has no interest in the matter except to help them on account of their poor English.

I then wrote a statement, really to impress him more with the moral seriousness of the case, stating that Anna Perez had left of her own accord against the express wishes of Mr. and Mrs. Kortensbeutel and the writer, and that it is our understanding that she is going to 101st Street, New York, to which he put his name.

We finally told him before he left that we would wait until tomorrow for her to return, and that they could talk the matter over all Sunday, but if she does not come back they will realize that we will have to get a girl and cannot keep the place open for Anna, and that we had already considerable hard-

ship before she came to us in not hiring a girl, knowing that she would come to us, and that during that time we had to do the work ourselves, which was too much for Elsie, and that we do not intend to repeat the situation now.

The man did not help her to carry her things, and so she only took a bundle, leaving her suitcase and other things upstairs. This morning she had not yet returned when I left, so I cannot say definitely what has developed in the meantime.

We are very sorry for the occurrence, for it was not of our seeking. Her behavior left much to wish for. We had to watch our affairs constantly. She would open windows on the coldest days and leave them open, at the same time burning the gas range all day and complaining to Elsie that it is so cold she cannot get warm, pulling the shades down so that one hardly could see that the windows were open.

She would go through the house and turn all the radiators off down stairs and say that Jack or Fritz did it. In fact, she blamed Fritz for anything that she did. One day when Fritz was in school and we had a terrific storm the water came into the cellar, and Elsie going down to try to sweep the water away so that it would not run into the furnace asked her to help her, but she just shook her head and said she would not do it, saying she did not do it but Fritz had done it. Poor little Fritz, he may be most anything, but he is not a god able to let the rain water run into the cellar.

Just to show you an incident, one of many which came to my personal notice. The Ward Line having gone into the hands of receivers, and we trying to collect our return tickets, were furnished with an official receipt from the company which we will have to file with the court. I gave this receipt to Elsie who put it in a desk, and it took her two days to find it for it was misplaced by Anna. Elsie then put it on top in one of the drawers with the idea of giving it to me the next morning, and when she went to look for it, it was gone again and was found somewhere else.

All things in the line of letters and valuable papers, for that matter, were being constantly misplaced and discovered in the most unbelievable places. Wilhelmina, just as a matter of curiosity, gathered up the slips that she some times wrote in Spanish and put them in her drawer upstairs, only to find later on that her drawers were ransacked and the papers taken out again. Privacy or the respect for privacy does not seem to be in her code.

One evening I came home and found that the fringe, which ^{is} particularly long, on one of the big rugs in the parlor was all tightly braided, and it took Elsie and Fritz at least fifteen minutes to unbraid it.

One evening when Anna had been very ugly, Elsie found that the half remaining bottle of rum we had in the sink had been emptied.

I come more and more to think, when I see this, and the colossal annoyance and trouble and serious situation that has developed in our office affairs with the Cuban company, that these Latin Americans are entirely impossible to deal with, and I must say that I am sick and tired of it.

If you have any disposition to make in regard to this situation, the address of the man is given above, and you can write either to him direct, or to us, or can make inquiries at the neighbors where Anna lived to see whether it is bonafide, and you may then write us direct and we shall do everything possible to straighten out the matter the way you wish it to be handled. Our conduct towards Anna was such that we have nothing to regret or to feel that we have in any way brought this situation about. My only concern was you, and I have fully and exhaustively stated our situation and your situation to the two men, but whether it availed anything or not, I cannot say. That we are very anxious to hear from you to know what you wish us to do, goes without saying.

With love to both of you from all of us, I am

Sincerely yours,

Triz