

has again fastened itself upon Cuba. These things are possibly true. And is it for us to intervene for the suppression of a revolution vitalized by such a cause?

+ +

Annulling Cuban Independence.

Both in Cuba and in the United States, influences are evidently at work for despoiling Cuba of her independence, and making her a colonial appendage, like Puerto Rico or the Philippines, to the United States. The Cuban considerations are commercial and spring from the landed interests there that would be financially benefited by American control. Considerations in the United States are both commercial and imperialistic. In certain American quarters the recognition of Cuban independence has always been distasteful. The following quotation from the editorial columns of the Chicago Inter Ocean of the 15th, regarding our present military occupation of Cuba, faithfully expresses that spirit: "The American people have been shown how peace and order can be secured in Cuba, and some day they will insist that their government shall do there what should have been done in 1898."

+ +

Cuban Civilization.

In support of the policy of subjugating Cuba, the idea that Cuban civilization is inferior, doubtless has much influence. An instance is afforded by the Chicago Tribune of the 15th, which describes the revolutionists as "an undisciplined, turbulent, rebellious people," Negroes or half-breeds—"a Spanish-African blend"—who have a "chronic and constitutional aversion to work," and whom the United States ought to take hold of with a strong hand and shake into some kind of order. A sober commentary, unintended but direct, upon this superficial judgment, may be found in Cassier's Magazine for September. It is written by a mining engineer of large experience in the West Indies, who describes the natives of Santo Domingo, the same "Spanish-African blend" as the "turbulent" Cubans, in these favorable terms:

Though a mixed race, I believe the Dominicans are the best of the West India natives. Daily intercourse with them and their employment in large numbers have given me a high opinion of the Dominican "man with the hoe." Absolutely illiterate, and in some respects primitive as a savage, he is naturally intelligent, peaceable and hard-working. As is usual among mountaineers, there is good character here, and upon its development the future prosperity of the islands will depend.

This engineer evidently had no designs upon the

labor, the property or the liberties of the Dominicans. Otherwise he would have found them, as exploitationists always pretend to do, inferior to other races, and fit only for exploitation by the white race. It is hardly in the nature of a lazy white man to think of a "lower" race or group of people without itching to have them forced to work for him.

+ +

A Labor Union Problem.

In skilled employments in which men are hired by the day or the week, a perplexing question of wages-regulation is arising. All men in a trade are not equally skillful; and in most trades, perhaps, there is a class of lower grade men who can do, after a fashion, a large proportion of the work as it runs. These men tend to hold wages down. If unions established minimum wages on the basis of the value of the well-skilled men, employers would be driven to resist unionism because they could afford to pay such wages only for part, and a comparatively small part of their work. The result is a tendency under union rules to a low minimum. To obviate this difficulty, some trade unionists advocate a technical examination for admission into unions. This would certainly improve unionism in one respect; it would make membership a guarantee of good workmanship. But on the other hand, the less efficient workmen who were excluded would be a constant menace to the strength of the unions. Since they would be competent to do such work in the trade as does not require high skill (a large proportion in almost every skilled trade), their pressure for employment would probably be so great as to disrupt the unions. And if wages within the union were classified, supposing that to be possible, the first-class mechanic would be out of employment except when high grade work was demanded. As economic conditions now are, the only course consistent with the maintenance of unionism seems to be to stand firmly by the present policy of fixing a minimum wage and letting employers pay more if they wish to and when and to whom they wish.

+ +

So long as opportunities for employment are restricted by law, the supply of workers being thereby kept in excess of opportunities for work, trade unions can be only defensive organizations and at a great disadvantage at that. But let restrictions to employment be removed, so that opportunities for work will constantly exceed the supply of workers, and the adjustment of wages to competency will be a simple and entirely practicable

matter. The essence of the whole question is the relation of the number of workers to opportunities for work. And the right end of this question is not the idea of too many workers, but of too few opportunities.

+ +

Senator Bailey and the Railroad Question.

One of the most persistent of the public men of his own party who urged Mr. Bryan to say nothing in favor of railroad ownership by government, was Senator Bailey of Texas. It now transpires that Mr. Bailey is in the midst of corporation combines, making money as a lawyer for great predatory interests. Mr. Bailey claims the right to practise law and to serve as a Democratic Senator at the same time. No one disputes this. But he has no more right, while a Senator, to practise law for clients whose interests depend upon senatorial action or inaction, than he would have to take retainers from any other two clients whose legal rights conflict. It may be that Mr. Bailey is not in fact influenced as a Senator by the interests he represents as a lawyer, but that is something which few believe and about which even he himself cannot be sure.

+ +

The Independent Ticket in Chicago.

Thanks to the efforts of the Hearst papers, a clean and strong judicial and county ticket of men of both parties has been put into the field against the tickets (pp. 458, 464) of the two machines. And this has been supplemented by an independent county ticket, to which the voters who are disgusted with the machine nominations can rally with reasonable hopes of success. As the ticket of the Democratic (Roger C. Sullivan) machine is losing by declination most of the good candidates upon it, there is reason to believe that the contest will be between the Republican machine, aided by Sullivan, and the independent ticket.

+ +

Judge Windes' Traction Decision.

One of the ablest judges on the bench in Chicago, Judge Thomas G. Windes, has made a decision which brings the Chicago traction question a long ways nearer to final adjustment in accordance with the policy of Mayor Dunne. By holding that the Mueller law is constitutional (p. 560) and the action under it of the City Council valid, his decision removes the last hope but one of the traction companies. That one last hope is the Supreme Court of the State, to which an appeal now goes directly and from which a decision may

be expected before the first of the year. Judge Windes' decision is so clear, strong and comprehensive, and his standing as a jurist is so high, that a reversal is hardly probable.

+ +

Legitimate and Illegitimate Fortunes.

The Houston Post drew the correct line of demarcation between legitimate and illegitimate fortunes when it said in its issue of July 29: "If men are accumulating dangerous fortunes in the United States it is because they are enjoying privileges to which they are not entitled. By applying correct principles to such conditions, the remedy would be automatically afforded. It would be wrong to take away one's property because less successful men may think he has too much. Let every man earn every cent that he legitimately can and let him have what he earns, but stop the system of giving to a few men the privilege to exploit the masses. Let not the many rob the few, but for heaven's sake stop the few from robbing the many."

+ +

If this were made the guiding principle, a vast number of baffling problems would vanish. And that it is coming into recognition as the true guiding principle there are many reasons to believe. The foregoing quotation from the Houston Post, for instance, finds an echo in the editorial columns of the Ohio State Journal of September 15. Commenting with gratifying directness upon a remark of Goldwin Smith that inequalities of wealth have sprung from inequalities of bodily and mental powers which social revolution cannot change, the Journal truly says: "The social conflict—the political contention, possibly—is not to change these natural conditions. There is a problem that lies before that—something within the range of practicability—which relates to the removal of those artificial inequalities which the law has set up, whereby a man makes a million or two, not by virtue of some favor that God has given him in intellect, industry, aspiration, but purely through some privilege that law has given him in response to some influence that is shrouded with suspicion. This is what is hurting the country—not the diversity of fruits gathered through the natural inequality of men."

+ + +

To whomsoever the soil at any time belongs, to him belong the fruits of it. White parasols and elephants mad with pride are the flowers of a grant of land.—Sir William Jones's Translation of an Indian grant of land, found at Touna.