

Cuba Under a Provisional Government.

The Cuban Congress met in special session on the 28th, pursuant to President Palma's call, and received the resignations of the President, the Vice-President and the members of the cabinet. President Palma's resignation was as follows:

To Congress: The condition to which public order has been reduced since the intillation of armed rebellion in the province of Pinar del Rio, and the fact that there is now in operation in this capital an American commission, said to be one of peace, and representing the government of Washington, and that in consequence the executive has practically lost all authority while the rebels continue in arms and in a threatening attitude, and the writer, on the other hand, desiring sincerely and ardently that the country return to its natural state of order and tranquillity, and as it is absolutely impossible to accept the conditions which the said commission proposes as the only means of terminating the rebellion, I have resolved, considering it to be patriotic and decorous, to present formally to Congress, and in irrevocable form, my resignation from the Presidency of the Republic, to which office I was elected by the citizens and the vote of the electoral college May 16 last. Trusting this will be at once accepted, I extend my thanks to both legislative bodies, to whom I offer this testimony of my highest consideration.

A congressional committee failed to shake the President's determination to abandon his office, and at a night session, attended by only four members, the Congress dissolved.

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On the following day Secretary Taft issued the following proclamation of intervention:

To the People of Cuba: The failure of Congress to act on the irrevocable resignation of the President of the Republic of Cuba or to elect a successor leaves the country without a government at a time when great disorder prevails and requires that, pursuant to the request of Mr. Palma, the necessary steps be taken in the name and by the authority of the President of the United States to restore order and protect life and property in the island of Cuba and the islands and keys adjacent thereto, and for this purpose to establish therein a provisional government.

The provisional government hereby established will be maintained only long enough to restore order, peace and public confidence by direction of and in the name of the President of the United States, and then to hold such elections as may be necessary to determine on those persons upon whom the permanent government of the Republic should be devolved.

In so far as is consistent with the nature of a provisional government established under the authority of the United States this will be a Cuban government, conforming with the constitution of Cuba. The Cuban flag will be hoisted as usual over the government buildings of the island; all the executive departments and provincial and municipal governments, including that of the city of Havana, will continue to be administered as under the Cuban Republic; the courts will continue to administer justice, and all the laws not in their nature inapplicable by reason of the temporary and emergent character of the government will be in force.

President Roosevelt has been most anxious to bring about peace under the constitutional government of Cuba, and he made every endeavor to avoid the present step. Longer delay, however, would be dangerous in view of the resignation of the cabinet.

Until further notice the heads of all the departments of the central government will report to me for instructions, including General Alexandro Rodriguez, in com-

mand of the Rural Guards and other regular government forces, and General Carlos Roloff, treasurer of Cuba.

Until further notice the civil governors and alcaldes will also report to me for instructions.

I ask all citizens and residents of Cuba to assist me in the work of restoring order, tranquillity and public confidence.

WM. H. TAFT,

Secretary of War of the United States,
Provisional Governor of Cuba.

Havana, September 29, 1906.

The proclamation, with its recognition of the Cuban Republic and the Cuban flag, seems to have been received with satisfaction, and business, somewhat interrupted by warlike uncertainties, has begun to take on its usual character. The insurgent generals Guerra and Asbert have aided General Funston's disarmament commission in endeavoring to bring about a full laying down of arms. Marines have been landed from the United States warships, and troops have been mobilized in the United States to be rushed to Cuba to maintain order. On the 2nd the late President, Thomas Estrada Palma, left Havana with his family, for Matanzas, where he is to remain for a few days, going later to his old home at Bayamo, in Santiago province. On the same day President Roosevelt selected Charles E. Magoon, until recently governor of the Canal Zone in Panama, to be Provisional Governor in Cuba until the Cubans shall have reestablished their government. Brigadier-General Frederic E. Funston has been put in command of the American troops on the island. On the 29th Senor Don Gonsale de Quesada, minister of Cuba to the United States, tendered his resignation to the Provisional Government. Efforts have since been made from Washington to induce him to resume his office.

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According to a special correspondent, Thomas G. Alvord, writing under date of the 1st to the Chicago Record-Herald, permanent American rule of Cuba is the object of a league which has just been started by the foreign residents of the island. They seek to force annexation or a protectorate, and believe they can obtain for one proposition or the other the vote of enough Cubans of property to enable them to carry out their purpose if they can get the matter to a vote. The league will urge the Provisional Government to allow the submission to the people at the next election of these three propositions:

1. Shall Cuba remain under purely native government?
2. Shall the island be annexed to the United States?
3. Shall a government under the protection of the United States be established?

The correspondent says that it is said that persons with property interests will vote for one of the last two propositions, and will influence so many native votes that one of the two will be carried. He continues:

This, of course, means that all foreign residents shall be allowed a vote on the propositions, which they are now prevented from doing by law. It is urged that with the provisional government it is possible so to order, as many of its acts have to be legalized by the next Congress. It is held also that under the following words of Mr. Taft's proclamation opportunity was left to hand over the country to the Americans in just this way:

"And then to hold such elections as may be necessary

to determine those persons upon whom the permanent government of the Republic should be devolved."

It was, in fact, this phrase that gave the organizers of the league the idea of what may grow into a very important and far-reaching political movement.

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A staff correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, John Callan O'Laughlin, wrote from Washington on the 1st, that Mr. Root, the Secretary of State, who has just arrived from his journey through South America, is very strongly opposed to any policy which may lead to the annexation of Cuba. According to this report, Mr. Root's position is that—

the United States stands in an extremely awkward position before Pan-America. The countries of the southern continent remember what Mr. Root said to them—that the United States did not seek an inch of Latin American territory—and now they are stared in the face by the fact of the American occupation of Cuba. They never believed the United States was actuated by altruistic motives alone in going to war with Spain. They were surprised by the American evacuation of Cuba, but their distrust was revived by the policy of President Roosevelt in setting the government of Panama upon its legs at the expense of the Republic of Colombia. American fiscal intervention in Santo Domingo added to their suspicion. Secretary Root spoke convincingly to them of American unselfishness and now he wants to make his word good. He came back to Washington assured that the government of Colombia would negotiate treaties with the United States and Panama, a step it has refused, up to this time, to take in spite of the earnest appeals of this country. The negotiation of these treaties will be begun when Senor Enrique Cortez, the new minister of Colombia to Washington, arrives here. In arranging a settlement of all the questions with Colombia and between Colombia and Panama, Mr. Root believes he will show South America that the United States has acted and is still acting in perfect good faith.

But according to the same correspondent, Mr. Root's view is not that of other members of the cabinet.

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A foreign explanation of the causes of the war, may possibly have truth in it. The Paris *Matin* of the 1st says that Palma destroyed the independence of Cuba because he feared black supremacy. The real exercise of liberty would give power to the black and mulatto majority, and the terror of a regime of blacks provoked the electoral frauds with the revolution as a consequence. It adds:

Between the acceptance of an honest election, which would transfer the power from the whites to blacks, and the loss of independence, Palma has not hesitated. He has sacrificed the independence of his country, but he has obtained the protection of American forces against the exactions of the blacks, which he feared above all.

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All Quiet in Mexico.

From time to time during the summer prophecies of impending uprisings in Mexico have found their way into the daily press, coming from the City of Mexico, and from various points in the United States. The June labor riots at the Cananea copper mines in the State of Sonora, owned by Americans (p. 225), seem to have been the only actual outbreak during this time. The threatened uprisings were described in July dispatches as being anti-

foreign in sentiment, and as including plans for a great labor strike, and for massacres of foreigners, both to begin September 16, the Mexican Independence Day. Nothing violent seems to have occurred on that day. On the 27th a band of smuggling outlaws made an attack on the town of Jimenez, near the Texan border, and captured it, only to be routed later by Mexican troops. The affair is not regarded as serious. In regard to the "fake" character of the prophesied uprisings the Washington Post has intelligently said:

Able editorials have appeared in a number of leading American papers, gravely discussing the prospects of a Mexican Boxer uprising. The depth and persistence of American ignorance of all things Mexican is one of the marvels of the century. It seems to be impossible to lift the veil that shrouds the mysterious land south of the Rio Grande. To the average American, Mexico is the land of manana, cigarettes, guitars and sudden assassinations, and apparently he prefers that no modern sunlight should be permitted to dispel the romantic moonshine with which he envelops the country. There is no more danger of an "uprising" of Mexicans against foreigners than there is danger of an uprising of Americans in New York against the foreign horde. Americans are more welcome in Mexico than Mexicans in the United States and they are less subject to molestation. Mexicans of all classes are possessed of better manners toward the foreigner than are displayed by the average American.

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Russia Quieter.

The government's arrangements for the sale of lands to the peasantry are practically complete (p. 560). On the 30th regulations were made public under which the sale of 11,000,000 dectiatines of land in European Russia will begin immediately. The local agrarian commissions, which are composed of delegates elected by the peasants, the land owners and the zemstvos and of representatives of the government, will act as intermediaries in determining the value of the land and fixing the conditions of sale. They are charged also with arrangements for emigration. The acreage in eastern Russia and on the Siberian steppes surrendered by the Emperor, will be sold on easy terms. The price is less than \$2 an acre, and payments are spread over fifty years.

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The ban upon meetings of the Constitutional Democrats in St. Petersburg and Moscow having been removed (p. 610), a peaceful advance is hoped for. On the 1st the central committee of the "Cadets," as they are called, met in St. Petersburg. The position of Professor Milukoff in the party was at once recognized by his election to the presidency of the assembly. The general congress of the Constitutional Democrats, appointed for the 6th at Helsinki in Finland (p. 610), may after all be permitted to meet in St. Petersburg.

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Press dispatches from St. Petersburg, under date of the 2nd, state that several newspapers have published editorial articles on the events at Atlanta, Ga., comparing them with the anti-Jewish massacres in Russia. The *Novoe Vremya* expresses the hope that the United States now will cease to attribute the