

chief city of Iceland, Reykjavik, is the responsible head of the administration. But now the Icelanders want autonomy. It was reported from Copenhagen under date of the 25th that the plan is for Iceland to recognize the sovereignty of King Frederick and the Danish flag, but the inhabitants insist that the sovereign shall style himself King of Denmark and Iceland, and that the Danish government shall not interfere with the internal affairs of the island. It has also been reported that the Icelanders are planning to open up a direct trade with America.

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Valparaiso Recovering.

In spite of the continuance of occasional earthquake shocks the citizens of Chile are bringing order out of the dreadful chaos produced by the earthquake of the 16th (p. 486). Railway and telegraph lines between Valparaiso and Santiago have been restored. Electric lights are reappearing in the streets of Valparaiso, and electric cars are beginning to run. The government has drawn up plans for the reconstruction of the city, which contemplate a uniform level for the streets, and a minimum street width, not counting sidewalks, of fifty feet. The government will pay cash for lands expropriated for this purpose and will facilitate loans to owners of lands thus taken. Customs duties will be suspended for eighteen months on construction material. The town of Quillota, 30 miles from Valparaiso, like a number of other towns, was badly damaged by the earthquake, but was not engulfed, as at first reported.

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The Cuban Insurrection.

Little battles, and the capture and subsequent abandonment of little towns by the insurrectionists, are the visible signs of the revolt in Cuba (p. 487). These signs are most manifest in the most western province, Pinar del Rio, where San Luis, a city of 5,000 inhabitants, was taken by the insurgents on the 22d, and San Juan de Martinez on the 23d. The insurgent leader in Pinar del Rio is Colonel Faustino Guerra, known as "Pino" Guerra. On the 23d "rural guards," in a hand to hand struggle, killed General Quintin Bandera, the famous Negro insurgent leader in Havana province, and several of his followers. A hard fought little battle occurred on the 25th near Santa Rosa, when the insurgents were routed. And they sustained another defeat on the 27th, when Colonel Valle, with a force of rural guards overcame General Guzman with a force of insurgents, near Cienfuegos in Santa Clara province. Even while this battle was in progress President Palma was issuing a proclamation of amnesty, and it is asserted that nearly all the insurgent leaders of consequence, except Colonel Guerra, are willing to take advantage of it.

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Nevertheless it must not be concluded that the trouble is over. Statements of grievances have now come to hand. Colonel Ernesto Asbert, commanding a body of insurgents in Havana province, defines his position in a signed statement from which the following is taken:

We who have taken up arms against the government of

Tomas Estrada Palma, have done so because we have arrived at the conclusion that law and justice are not to be established in this country by the will of the government, because the administration daily commits outrages upon the constitution and despoils our people of their legal rights. It is our sole desire to establish the supreme rule of the law, to restore affairs where they were before the last elections. We want new elections called in order that the people exercising with the fullest freedom the right of suffrage, may elect the men who ought to occupy the posts of president and vice-president, as well as governors, senators, representative and provincial councilmen of the republic.

The Chicago Tribune publishes in its cable dispatches this summary of the causes of the revolt:

The present revolution is a popular protest against the dictatorial methods of President Palma and his advisers. In 1902, when Palma was elected, he had no opposition. He was the candidate of both political parties. For a time the people of Cuba were satisfied with his administration. But there was a clog in the wheel of the new Republic. The island has lived under a constitution since 1902; but its laws are the laws left on the books by Spain. Congress has now passed laws to conform to the constitution. The result has been to concentrate tremendous power in the hands of President Palma. After the first three or four years of the Republic's existence the Cubans divided into two parties, Liberals and Moderates. The government was filled with Liberal office holders. The veterans of the war naturally held positions of honor and trust. President Palma placed himself at the head of the Moderate party. Under the old Spanish laws he had almost unlimited powers. He removed all government officers who were Liberals and filled their places with Moderates. Thus Palma first sowed the seeds of discontent from which the present revolution grew. Then came the Presidential election in 1905. There seems to be no room for doubt that the Liberals were heavily in the majority in a fair and honestly conducted election. Yet Palma and his friends of the Moderate party controlled the election machinery and the police force, and Gomez, the Liberal candidate, was hopelessly defeated.

From that moment a revolution was certain. The Liberals comprise the men who fought ten years with Spain to secure their independence. They claim they wrested the island from Spain, with the help of the United States, only to see it placed under the rule of an oligarchy with Estrada Palma at its head.

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Information that tends to show that other causes may have operated to produce insurrection, comes all the way from Hawaii. The Honolulu Advertiser of Aug. 28 says that "a leading member of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association asserts that he was told within a year by a sugar magnate, who was a fellow passenger with him between Honolulu and San Francisco, that the sugar men of Cuba wanted the island annexed to the United States and were raising a fund of \$5,000,000 to use in creating a disturbance which would compel the United States to interfere and take control of the government. The Hawaiian planter says he believes that the present revolution has been promoted and is being financed by planters with the object of securing annexation."

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Commenting on the relations of the United States to the situation in Cuba, the *Diario de la Marina*, the

oldest established Spanish organ in Cuba, said on the 29th:

Some people admit that the present rebellion is over. We do not know whether they are right, but we do know that it should end quickly. If the insurrection does not end quickly there will be American intervention. If the war lasts long and the United States government does not intervene the Platt amendment will be a failure. In the fewest words, intervention would mean the loss or at least the diminution of Cuban independence. The lack of intervention were the war to continue long would be equivalent to the annulment of guaranties which up to the present induced foreign capitalists to invest their funds in Cuba. If instead of warranting peace, solvency and security in Cuba, the Platt amendment is to be restricted solely to the protection of American interests, it is almost certain that English, American and Spanish money should not have been invested in Cuba in such amounts as they have during the past year.

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Democratic Politics in Ohio.

The Democratic situation in Ohio (p. 439) as reported in the Ohio papers is very much clarified. Harvey C. Garber, the chairman of the State executive committee, and W. L. Finley, were believed on the 21st to have complete control of the convention then about to assemble, and it was known that they intended to insist upon endorsing a county local option law with reference to the sale of intoxicants. This proposed endorsement and one other plank caused nearly all the excitement on the eve of the convention, the other plank being Mayor Johnson's demand for an endorsement of Senator Howe's franchise taxation bill. On the intoxicant question, Mayor Johnson stated that he would favor a law settling the question through local option by local popular vote but not by petition. The convention met on the 21st, when Mr. Finley offered the following minority report on the subject of local option:

We urge the necessary legislation or constitutional amendment which will give the people of State, county or city, by petition of 5 per cent. in the State and a reasonable percentage in either political divisions, the right to bring any question to a popular vote, thereby vetoing, if they choose, any act of their representatives, or enacting by popular initiative any legislation which may meet with the approval of the majority. We believe that under the provisions the people of any community could solve all questions of temperance or other legislation to their own satisfaction.

This amendment was rejected by 576 to 337½, its defeat being due probably to the fact that the platform as reported to and adopted by the convention declared as follows regarding the initiative and referendum:

We favor the initiative and referendum, and such legislation and constitutional amendments as will make it effective as to State and local affairs.

The platform on the subject of taxation and home rule is as follows:

We demand that the laws shall be so amended that the revenue necessary for the expenses of the State shall be raised without calling upon the counties for a levy, and thereby secure for each county home rule in taxation, i. e., each county raise only what it needs for its own expenses and which its citizens authorize. We declare that the present laws for assessing the property of railroads and other public service corporations should be so changed as to compel the assessment of those properties at not less than their salable value as going concerns, and to

prevent their evasion of just taxation. We demand that the legislature shall enact such laws as will enable a tax to be levied on all franchise privileges as on other property which now, although of great value, pay nothing toward the burdens of government. We believe in free and unqualified home rule, free from State interference. Each city, town and village should be allowed to decide for itself all matters of local policy, especially as between public or private ownership of all public utilities, including street railways, as well as waterworks and lighting systems, and that provision should be made for submitting such questions to the people, upon request from a reasonable number of voters and at such elections the vote of a majority shall decide. Such public ownership should be safeguarded by the merit system of appointment and tenure of office, so as to prevent the building up of political machines and the perpetuation of a boss rule.

Railroad passes were condemned. The election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people was advocated, and the State committee was directed "to include in the call for the next State convention provisions for the nomination of a candidate for United States Senator by such convention." Bryan was referred to in these terms:

It is with feelings of pride that the half million Democrats of Ohio note the preparations making to receive the most distinguished private citizen of America upon his return from a tour of foreign lands. His intellectual endowments, his purity of morals, his high ideals have arrested the attention, and compel the admiration of the peoples of all climes. He returns to the United States splendidly equipped to grapple with the great problems of state. The Ohio Democracy renews its allegiance to his brilliant and matchless leadership. No other name appeals to us for Presidential preference. We cordially indorse our great commoner, William Jennings Bryan, for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency in 1908 and impatiently await the summons to battle under his banner.

Samuel O. Hoskins was nominated for Secretary of State to head the ticket.

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Regarding Mayor Johnson's relation to the convention the Cleveland Plain Dealer of the 23d said:

Defeated in his attempt to eliminate Congressman Garber as a controlling factor in the party organization, Mayor Johnson nevertheless came away from the convention in a stronger position than ever to continue his fight for principles which he has been preaching in Ohio for years. The franchise tax plank was adopted by the convention without discussion, exactly as written by the Cleveland mayor.

In the issue of the Plain Dealer for the previous day, W. S. Couch, its staff correspondent, had described the character of Johnson's "attempt to eliminate Congressman Garber as a controlling factor in the party organization," by saying:

No one believes that Johnson can fight a stronger campaign in Cleveland with the aid of Salen's political methods. He does not believe Garber's political skill is necessary to win Democratic successes in the State. He tells this convention so. And he adds that Garber methods will be a handicap to a campaign of reform. From the standpoint of Salen-Garber politics, from the politicians' standpoint, Mayor Johnson has been "licked." The convention has clung to Garber and refused to accept Johnson. But so at St. Louis the national Democracy listened to the voice of expediency and turned a deaf ear to William Jennings Bryan. Bryan was defeated, crushed, at St. Louis—in the opinion of practical