

A painful impression has been created in Cuba by the publication on the 4th, by the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Root, of a cable correspondence which was carried on from September 10 to September 14, between the United States Consul General at Havana, Mr. Steinhart, sending messages from President Palma, and the Acting Secretary of State, Mr. Bacon. We give the first letters of this correspondence only, the later ones being similar in character:

Havana, Sept. 8, 1906.—Secretary of State (absolutely confidential): Secretary of state of Cuba has requested me, in the name of President Palma, to ask President Roosevelt to send immediately two vessels, one to Havana, other to Cienfuegos. They must come at once. Government forces are unable to quell rebellion. The government is unable to protect life and property. President Palma will convene congress next Friday, and congress will ask for our forcible intervention. It must be kept secret and confidential that Palma asked for vessels. No one here except President, Secretary of State and myself know about it. Very anxiously awaiting reply. Send answer to

STEINHART, Consul General.

Havana, Sept. 10, 1906.—Secretary of State, Washington: President here worried because no reply received to my message and asks war vessels be sent immediately.

STEINHART, Consul General.

Department of State, Washington, D. C., Sept. 10.—Steinhart, Havana: Your cable received. Two ships have been sent, due to arrive on Wednesday. The president directs me to state that perhaps you do not yourself appreciate the reluctance with which this country would intervene. President Palma should be informed that in the public opinion here it would have a most damaging effect for intervention to be undertaken until the Cuban government has exhausted every effort in a serious attempt to put down the insurrection, and has made this fact evident to the world. At present the impression certainly would be that there was no real popular support of the Cuban government or else that the government was hopelessly weak. As conditions are at this moment, we are not prepared to say what shape the intervention should take. It is, of course, a serious thing to undertake forcible intervention and before going into it we should have to be absolutely certain of the equities of the case and of the moods of the situation. Meanwhile we assume that every effort is being made by the government to come to a working agreement, which will secure peace with the insurgents, provided they are unable to hold their own with them in the field. Until such efforts have been made we are not prepared to consider the question of intervention at all.

BACON, Acting Secretary.

It will be remembered that although United States warships were hovering in the vicinity of Cuba at the time of the foregoing correspondence, President Roosevelt's letter to the Cuban minister, announcing intervention, was not written until Sept. 14th. Dispatches from Havana state that had this correspondence not been published the impression would have continued there that President Palma yielded to intervention only after Mr. Taft had found it impossible to reconcile the Cuban differences.

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#### The Russian Constitutional Democrats Meet.

The Congress of the Constitutional Democrats (p. 634) met at Helsingfors, the capital of Finland, on the 7th. There were present 171 delegates, representing forty-three provinces and four territories. Prince Paul Dolgoroukoff was elected president, while M.

Chisniakof and Prince Shakhovski were made vice-presidents. The President stated that the government officially regards the Viborg manifesto which was issued by the outlawed Douma at its dissolution (p. 393), and which called upon the people for universal passive resistance to the Emperor by refusal to pay taxes or serve in the army, as an act of "temporary mental aberration." He regarded the present congress as a great historical and constitutional act which would vastly strengthen the party in the coming electoral campaign. The committee on the attitude the congress should take upon the Viborg manifesto promptly brought in a report formally approving the manifesto, but recognizing the inexpediency of applying the doctrine of passive resistance at the present time. On the 8th the conservative leaders were reported as giving way before the storm of radicalism manifested in the day's debate. A meeting of the central committee was held in the evening of the 8th, at which a strong disposition to accept the radical proposals regarding endorsement of the Viborg manifesto was shown. It is realized that this action will drive many conservatives out of the party into the arms of the "regenerationists." A determining factor in the day's debate was a speech by a peasant from Kursk, who declared that the peasantry was fully in accord with the doctrines of the Viborg manifesto, and would regard its abandonment as a sign of cowardice. The extreme radicals are advocating a bold appeal to the peasantry to refuse to enter the army during the recruiting season, which opens this month.

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According to the dispatches the government is determined to control the next Douma. In order to be sure of this all of the government employes in every grade have been ordered to abstain from aiding the liberals. An elaborate spy system has been developed to watch the state employes and see that they vote for government candidates for the Douma. Every civil service employe will be under espionage, his letters opened, his movements watched, his friends noted. If any employe is found to have disobeyed orders he will instantly be dismissed and his right to a pension forfeited. More than that, the government announces that if the electoral returns show anything like the success of the radical elements contained in the last Douma the evidence will be taken as proof that the junior ranks of the civil service have disobeyed the government's order, the elections will be canceled, and the convocation of the Douma be postponed for another six months. The government's order to its employes is recognized as the opening of an aggressive campaign against its natural enemy, the so-called "intelligentsia," or people who possess higher education, but who are without capital. These include a large majority of the government's enormous army of civil employes.

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## NEWS NOTES

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—The International Wireless Telegraph Conference assembled in Berlin on the 3d.

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