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For the first time since entering upon its career as a world Power, along with the other freebooters which boast that distinction, the American government has recognized a new republic.

The Cuban republic begged for recognition in vain. Not until an American battleship was wrecked in a Spanish harbor in Cuba did the American government feel justified in interfering; and then not in recognition of the new republic, but to preserve the peace near our own borders. The republic could not be recognized because it had no government de facto; which meant that it hadn't succeeded in expelling an enormous Spanish army. Even recognition of belligerency was denied it, thus leaving Spain to treat its patriots as criminals instead of soldiers.

The first republic of Asia, as perfect a de facto government as history records, one which the people of all the Christianized parts of the Philippine Islands freely recognized and obeyed, also appealed to the American world-Power for recognition in vain. Instead of welcoming that republic to the family of nations, the American government bought its territory and people of a foreign Power which it had expelled; insulted its envoys, ignored its existence, menaced its exposed ports with battleships, fired upon its army, slaughtered its people like rabbits in a royal chase, laid waste its lands, and finally subjugated its country.

The South African Republic

and the Orange Free State were other little nations which appealed in vain for American recognition. They sent envoys to Washington, and the envoys were entertained, like tourists, with views of scenery from the back windows of the White House; though with this advantage over the ordinary run of tourists, that the President himself condescended to act as guide. The South African Republic could not be recognized because it was only an "autonomous dependency" of Great Britain. Lacking the treaty-making power in its fullness, this republic was not sovereign de jure, wherefore its sovereignty de facto could not count. That was the reason we could not recognize it. Why we could not recognize the republic of the Orange Free State has never yet been explained. For that republic was sovereign, both de jure and de facto, and had been for many years.

But if the American government was virtuously averse to recognizing republics in those instances, it has been neither averse nor slow with reference to the infant republic of Panama. Slow! It has been speedier than electricity. Not merely did it act so speedily after the event as to make the American recognition of nationality seem like a postscript to the Panama proclamation of independence, but it prepared for action well in advance of the event if not in advance of the intent. When was a little republic ever before so swiftly internationalized?

We should be glad, were the circumstances in harmony with any such hypothesis, to suppose that this reversal of recent American policy with reference to struggling republics, indicates a change of heart. But not the most sublime spirit of charity could tolerate

that supposition. The criminal animus is all too plain. Forty millions of loot is directly involved, nearly all of which will go to the Wall street owners of the old Panama canal stock. A ship canal is to be built, in connection with which there will be much graft. Large sections of country adjacent to the canal will be enormously increased in value, to the great joy of land speculators "on the inside." So much for immediate commercial considerations. The patriotic part of the affair involves glorious possibilities in the way of national expansion. With the little republic of Panama down on the northern borders of South America, where it may serve in multiplied degree the leverage purposes that Texas served on the borders of Mexico in the '40's,—with this advantage, a thorough-going patriotic administration, supported by a patriotic Congress and a Wall street clique, would find it almost child's play in politics, diplomacy and war to gather in the whole territory from Colombia to the Rio Grande—Mexico, silver mines, and all.

To adjust the Negro race question, Bishop Halsted, of the African Methodist Zion church, proposes the segregation of Negroes in one or more States, where whites would not be permitted to live. If Bishop Halsted's plan were feasible to begin with, it would probably be "knocked into a cocked hat" upon the first discovery of commercial opportunities in the Negro State. From that moment the "extension of civilization and Christianity" among the blacks would rise to be a business, political, religious and graft problem of paramount importance. You couldn't keep white men out of a Negro State with a standing army, after the discovery of rich money-making chances there. The Negro inhabi-