

CURRENT TOPICS

THE SITUATION IN Cuba seems to be growing more and more serious. Dispatches say that the Cuban government views with suspicion not only its old time enemies but also many of those whom it has hitherto trusted as friends. The United States government has several cruisers in readiness for emergencies, the cruiser Des Moines being ordered to report to Havana. Washington dispatches say that no effort is made by public men to conceal the impression that it may be necessary for the United States to intervene.

SAILORS FROM THE cruiser Denver were landed at Havana, while sailors from the gunboat Marietta were landed at Cienfuegos. A Washington dispatch, referring to the landing of sailors, says: "It was officially announced here late tonight that the sailors who were landed at Havana from the American cruiser Denver have been ordered to return to their vessel, save for a small guard, which will be left at the American legation. This action followed the receipt of an official report by Acting Secretary of State Bacon from Mr. Sleeper, the American charge d'affaires at Havana, regarding the landing. The report was not made public, but it was announced officially shortly afterwards that the sailors were landed from the Denver solely for the protection of the lives and property of American citizens; that such action was in pursuance of a discussion between Mr. Sleeper and the naval commander with the belief that it was a wise provision looking to the protection of the lives and property of Americans. There was no intention, it is stated, to do otherwise than to safeguard American interests and the services of American sailors were to be utilized only in case of disorders within the city which threatened such interests. That the landing in any way contemplated the protection of either the Cuban government or the insurrectionary government, or President Palma, or any other person than American citizens was disclaimed officially and it was pointed out that this fact could not be emphasized too strongly." Later the American sailors were withdrawn to their vessels and it is announced that the United States government will undertake to act as peace maker.

REFERRING TO THE result in Maine, Chairman Griggs of the democratic congressional committee says: "The only explanation I have seen offered by our republican friends for the slump in Maine is the whisky question. My understanding is that the Maine people have had the liquor question with them at every election for a great many years, and, with the same candidates for governor and congress and with the same question as four years ago before the voters, it seems strange that in this election prohibition arose in its might and smote them hip and thigh, and it is more than strange that after the election they 'switched their bob' and declare the whisky question was the main issue, when so many of the republican big guns who were imported into Maine, declared to the contrary. The issues they discussed before the voters of Maine were not prohibition, nor were they the indorsement of republican policies as exemplified by the present congress, but the standpat doctrines and the indorsement of the president. If the small majorities received by the republican candidates, which are the smallest since 1864, are satisfactory to these gentlemen, they ought to be to the democrats. In the last election the republican candidate for governor received a majority of over 27,000 and at this election only 8,000 to 9,000. Our average gain in each congressional district is approximately 5,000. If the ratio of republican loss in Maine holds throughout the country, the next house will be largely democratic. Why should not Maine be a weather vane this year as always in the past?"

DEMOCRATS FIND GREAT encouragement in the returns from the Maine election, which took place September 10. Cobb, the republican candidate for governor, received a plurality of about 9,000. Representative Littlefield, against whom the labor organizations made a special fight, was re-elected by a plurality of about 1,300.

The republicans elected the governor, four congressmen and secured control of the legislature, but all by greatly reduced majorities. The republicans suffered losses very generally in the cities and towns. The Associated Press says that Cobb lost his home town, Rockland, and that the democrats carried Augusta, the capital of the state, and that sixteen out of the twenty cities in the state went democratic, Hallowell, Gardiner, Eastport and Calais being the only ones to remain republican. Two years ago when the candidates for governor were the same as this year, Cobb carried eighteen of the twenty cities, Waterville and Lewiston being the only cities to remain in the democratic column.

REPUBLICAN LEADERS claim that the prohibition question was solely responsible for the slump in Maine, and while it is admitted by the democrats that that question played an important part, they insist that the marked reduction in the republican pluralities show that the tide has turned against the republican party. Some idea of the change in the Maine situation is obtained by a glance at the election returns of former years. In 1890 the republican candidate for governor had a plurality of 18,883. In 1894 the plurality was 38,978. In 1898 the plurality was 24,769. In 1900 the plurality was 34,132. In 1902 the plurality was 27,490. In 1904 the plurality was 25,800. This year, as before stated, it is about 9,000. The vote on candidates for congress as compared with two years ago is as follows: In the first district Allen, republican had a plurality of 4,989 in 1904. This year the plurality is 2,000. In the Second district Littlefield, republican, had two years ago a plurality of 5,419. This year the plurality is 1,300. In the Third district, Burleigh, republican, two years ago had a plurality of 6,863. This year it is 2,000. In the Fourth district Powers, republican, had two years ago, a plurality of 8,901. This year it is about 2,000.

PORTLAND, MAINE, dispatch under date of September 3 says: "Cyrus W. Davis, the democratic candidate defeated for governor, stated today that the election will be thoroughly investigated and the investigation carried to the ballots if necessary. His personal organ, the Waterville Sentinel, today published an item saying information is at hand indicating the democrats will have a majority of the legislature to insure its control and elect a senator to succeed Mr. Frye. A careful revision of the lists in the light of belated returns indicate the democrats will have eight of the thirty-one senators and sixty of the 151 representatives in the next legislature. This is a gain for the minority party of four senators and thirty-four representatives."

THE OHIO REPUBLICAN convention which met at Dayton, September 11, attracted more than ordinary attention because of the contest between the Roosevelt and Foraker-Dick forces. It will be remembered that several weeks ago Representative Burton issued a statement throwing down the gauntlet to Senators Foraker and Dick, insisting that Dick should not be re-elected to the chairmanship of the state executive committee and that the two senators should not be endorsed. Senator Foraker replied in a spirited way making no effort to dodge the issue, while Senator Dick kept right on in his fight for control of the state committee. The result was a complete victory for the Foraker-Dick forces. The committee re-elected Dick chairman by a vote of fifteen to seven.

AT THE FIRST SESSION of the convention Senator Foraker delivered a speech. The temporary chairman, former Governor Herrick, had in his address spoken in favor of tariff revision. Senator Foraker said that if the convention stood by Roosevelt it would not stand for tariff revision, because "he himself has determined it, has spoken it and has proclaimed it, not alone as to the official result of the Oyster Bay conference, but in his somewhat celebrated letter to Mr. Watson." Mr. Foraker made no effort to dodge his record in the senate. He said

he thought it was the province of a senator to speak for the people and he added: "I pursue that policy. If that is not right; if, on the contrary, a man is to be rebuked because he exercises the qualifications with which he is blessed, then you take all the honor away from the office, and, so far as I am concerned, you can take the office with it."

ON THE SECOND DAY of the session the Ohio republican convention gave enthusiastic endorsement to Senators Foraker and Dick. Although many republican delegates insisted that an endorsement of the senators and the endorsement of the president would be inconsistent, these warnings were ignored. And while the convention "most heartily approved and endorsed Theodore Roosevelt and his administration of public affairs" it "most heartily—and without reserve—approved and endorsed our distinguished senators." It rejected the plank favoring the nomination of senators by popular vote, and the plank favoring tariff revision. But Representative Burton, who favored these planks, says they will yet be adopted by a republican convention in Ohio.

THE PLANKS IN THE Ohio republican platform which, while endorsing Mr. Roosevelt and his policies, endorsed also Senators Foraker and Dick who very generally opposed Mr. Roosevelt's policies, are as follows: "We most heartily approve and endorse Theodore Roosevelt and his administration of public affairs. True to the principles of the republican party as enunciated at Chicago in 1904, he has more than met and fulfilled our high expectations. His sagacity, patriotism, commanding honesty and courage, his lofty ideals of public duty and of private citizenship, have won for him a unique place in the confidence and regard of the American people. We express our renewed confidence in his ability, his patriotism, his pure and high-minded devotion to the interests of the whole people. To him belongs the principal credit for the long list of beneficent laws enacted at the last session of congress, and we are proud of his leadership and pledge him our loyal support in the future as in the past. To carry out the policies which mark his administration and to enable him to complete the mission the American people entrusted to him two years ago, it is imperatively necessary that he be aided by a republican congress. A hostile house of representatives would thwart his high aims and embarrass the policy to which he is committed. We most heartily and without reserve approve and endorse our distinguished senators, Joseph Benson Foraker and Charles Dick. Ohio's representatives in the senate have ever held a commanding position among the statesmen of the nation, and we glory in the conspicuous and effective work of Senators Foraker and Dick in legislative accomplishments and republican leadership. We dispute no rights to devotion, to honest conviction of duty in all matters of legislation, believing it in harmony with a representative form of government and a necessary safeguard of constitutional liberty."

SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS have printed an interview with W. R. Stubbs of Kansas, in which interview Mr. Stubbs suggests plans for attacking the trusts. He advises the elimination of the watered stock and compelling corporations to obtain federal license before doing business outside the state of their origin. Mr. Stubbs' interest in these reforms is commendable, although he is several years behind the times. The Kansas City platform made suggestions similar to those advanced by Mr. Stubbs, while in January, 1903, Mr. A. C. Shallenberger, then a member of congress from the Fifth Nebraska district, and now the democratic and populist nominee for governor, introduced in congress a bill which sought to enact these provisions into law. For instance section four of Shallenberger's bill provided: "That any corporation or association of individuals which may have been formed before the passage of this act or which shall be formed subsequent to its passage under the laws of any state or territory of the United States for the manufacture, production, sale, or disposal