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The Cuban Constitution.

The Cuban constitution, as it has been drafted and will probably be adopted, is, in many respects, similar to that of the United States. Cuba is declared to be "a sovereign and independent state under a republican form of government." The provision for citizenship is as liberal as ours. The guarantees of personal liberty, religious freedom, freedom of speech and of the press, are similar to those in our Constitution. The president is to be elected by a direct popular vote, "an absolute majority thereof cast on one single day" being essential to election. The term of office is for a period of four years. The president may be re-elected, but is ineligible for a third consecutive term. The vice-president has powers and authority similar to ours. The congress is to be composed of a senate and house of representatives. The senate will consist of thirty-six members, elected for six years, one-third retiring every two years. The house will have one member for every 25,000 inhabitants, or fraction above 12,500. The house members are to be elected for four years, one-half the membership retiring every two years. The congress has powers similar to ours. The judicial power is vested in a supreme court, and it is provided that "justice shall be ministered gratuitously." The judges of the court are to be appointed by the president with the approval of the senate and are to hold office during good behavior. Each of the six provinces is to have a governor elected for three years and a "departmental assembly" elected for three years. These provinces are given the right of independent action in their local affairs, provided that no law is enacted inconsistent with the Cuban constitution.

Municipalities are given powers and privileges not enjoyed by towns in the United States. Here the municipality is recognized as a creature of the state, having no powers which the legislature does not bestow. But the Cuban constitution prohibits the "departmental assemblies" or provincial legislatures from enacting any law that shall be antagonistic "to that which pertains to the inherent right of the municipalities." The most liberal home rule is given to the towns, and these towns are immediately governed by a mayor and board of councilmen. The Cuban congress is given authority over telegraphs and railroads.

On the whole, the draft of the Cuban constitution is a meritorious document. Such errors as it has are for the most part copied from our own Constitution, and we are not in position to criticize them until we adopt amendments here.

The people demonstrated their right to liberty by their willingness to fight for it. The proceed-

ings of Cuba's constitutional convention have demonstrated that the fortunes of the people of that island are more secure in the hands of Cuban statesmen than they would be in the custody of American politicians.

Towne's Great Speech.

Just before closing his brief senatorial career, Mr. Towne delivered a speech which may fairly be regarded as the best of his many excellent productions. Mr. James Creelman, the distinguished newspaper correspondent, describing the delivery of the speech and the immediate effect produced, says that no speech delivered in the senate in recent years has created such a profound impression or brought to its author such general and hearty congratulations. As an arraignment of imperialism the speech has never been surpassed. The following is the peroration:

I do not wish to convey the impression that in my opinion the present policy will at one fell swoop convert this republic into an empire in fact. But I do say that the seeds of empire lurk in this policy, and that time and favoring environment will and must bring them to their flower and fruit unless we make a reasonable prevention. God speed the day when the American people, whose annals blaze with records of unequalled heroism, and who again and always, if some great cause demand it, would freely pay with life itself the price of its defense, shall have the moral courage to do their civil duty—a rarer thing than to face undaunted the cannon's mouth—and with their sovereign voice declare that this unholy war for greed and empire shall be stopped, and that no soldier of the United States shall ever again in all our history be sent to other lands to war on people fighting for their liberty.

I shall not willingly cease to dream of a twentieth century devoted to the demonstration, the first and only one in history, that a government of the people, for the people, and by the people need not perish from the earth. There is an inspiration in the thought that to our beloved country may be reserved the culminating glory of the ages in crowning with success the long experiment of righteous self-government.

A Royal Opportunity.

Edward VII, King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India, is now the supreme ruler over more than three hundred and fifty millions of people. As such he has opportunities which come to but few persons in a generation and his responsibilities are commensurate with his opportunities. It is too much to expect that one who was born heir to a throne and who was reared in an atmosphere of royalty will regard the people as the source of power. Neither can one who relies upon inheritance for his own social and official standing be reasonably expected to disregard the claims of birth and wealth and distribute favors according to merit, but there is much he could do without surrendering his belief in the monarchical principle or disturbing the aristocracy.

He could announce his willingness to join Parliament in extending to the people of Ireland the rights and privileges now enjoyed by his English subjects, and he could express a desire

for the termination of the war in South Africa in which Englishmen are being sacrificed and Boers slaughtered in order to raise the British flag over a few gold mines.

But even if he is not disposed to espouse the cause of those who desire enlarged political rights, there is still a sphere in which he could employ his energies to advantage. Having all the wealth that he can use and all the official honor that he can covet, it is within his power to win the hearts of his subjects and give them a substantial reason for their loyalty by proving his personal interest in their welfare.

Great problems press for consideration, and he might exert a powerful influence in their correct solution. If he will devote his time to studying the needs of the people rather than to the pleasure and dissipations of the court; if he will visit the crowded tenement houses and the workshops of the great cities and devise means for their betterment; if he will acquaint himself with the condition of agricultural labor and use his influence to keep the farm land from being swallowed up by vast hunting estates; if he will investigate the monopolization of industry and prevent the destruction of the independent merchant and manufacturer; if he will see that the laws are enforced against those who plunder by wholesale as well as against those who do wrong on a small scale; if, in other words, he will show that he is anxious to live for those who in any emergency would be willing to die for him, he will add honor to the crown rather than receive distinction from it.

Popular Election of Senators.

While it may be impossible to secure favorable action at this time, an effort ought to be made in the Senate to bring up for consideration the resolution looking to the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people.

The House of Representatives in both the Fifty-second and Fifty-third Congresses adopted resolutions submitting the necessary constitutional amendment, but each time the Senate defeated action. That there is a popular demand for the change is evident from the fact that a similar resolution passed the House of Representatives of the present Congress by an almost unanimous vote.

In 1868 President Johnson, first in a special and later in an annual message, urged the submission of an amendment placing the election of United States senators in the hands of the people at large, and from that day to this there has been a constant growth of sentiment in favor of this reform. Wherever the matter has been acted upon by the people an overwhelming majority has been recorded in favor of the proposition. The affirmative arguments may be summed up as follows:

First. The people have a right to speak through senators of their own selection.

Second. Corruption and corporate influence are bringing scandal and disgrace upon senatorial elections and impeaching the integrity of a legis-