

began to blow, and the crowd outside, thinking the transfer had taken place, commenced to cheer. In the midst of this babel of noise General Wood read a brief paper to President Palma, stating that in the name and by authority of the American government he relinquished authority in the island and surrendered it into the keeping of the new government to be administered in accordance with the constitution adopted by the people of Cuba and the Platt amendment. He then read a letter from President Roosevelt extending congratulations to President Palma and expressing his good wishes for the success and prosperity of the republic. General Wood then with a faltering voice assured President Palma of his appreciation of the courtesies shown him and of his sincere regard and good will for the new government and the Cuban people, and with this American occupation ended.

The president read from manuscript, written in Spanish, his acceptance of the responsibilities of the office, and, speaking for his government, promised to fulfill the terms imposed. Then in English he replied in a few heartfelt words to General Wood's farewell. General Wood extended his hand and, after a cordial greeting, the president turned to the chief justice, took the oath of office and then modestly received and acknowledged the congratulations showered upon him.

As soon as General Wood ceased speaking the American flag on the palace was lowered and the Cuban flag raised in its place amid the acclamations of the multitude. Simultaneously with the lowering of the flag on the palace building the flags that floated from the other government buildings were hauled down and Cuban flags quickly substituted for them. The crowd at the end of the Prado raised a mighty shout when the stars and stripes on Morro Castle came down and the single-star Cuban flag was flung to the breeze; and yet, happy as they were, there was a touch of sadness in their rejoicing, for they had come to love the American flag. A member of the commission charged with the transfer of the flags on Morro Castle told me that when the American flag was lowered the Cuban soldiers stationed at that place rushed forward and caught it up, saying that it must not be allowed to touch the ground—they even pressed its folds to their lips. The Americans present were deeply touched by the affection displayed, and well they might be.

"VIVAS" IN PLENTY.

As soon as the ceremonies were completed at the palace General Wood and his staff officers, accompanied by the president, his cabinet, the members of the court and congress, and other officials, marched behind the escort to the wharf. The Spanish word "viva," which means "live," is used in the same way as our word "hurrah," and as the procession moved toward the boat the crowd waved and cheered "Viva General Wood," "Viva Presidente Palma," "Viva la Republica Americana," "Viva Cuba libre." All were proposed and given with equal fervor. In fact, the good will entertained for the Americans was so apparent on every hand that no partiality was shown in the salutations and exclamations.

Having seen the Americans safely aboard the Brooklyn, which carried General Wood and his staff, and the Morro Castle, which carried the soldiers, President Palma and his cabinet returned to the palace and held a consultation; but the people lingered on the Prado until the ships passed through the channel out into the sea and then waved a farewell to the government that had entered Cuba as a friend, withstood the temptations which come with the exercise of power and, as soon as a stable government was established, removed the flag from the island, only to leave it enshrined in the hearts of the people.

President Palma is small in stature, but large in experience, capacity and patriotism. He is a man of education, refinement and wide acquaintance. He took part in the war of 1868, and was one of the early presidents of the government then formed. He was taken prisoner and was in a

Spanish fortress when the treaty of 1878 was signed. His release was finally secured at the request of the republic of Honduras, where he had resided for a few years; but he had no faith in the promises made by Spain, and when he left the prison it was with the determination not to return to Cuba until she was an independent nation. After a brief sojourn in Honduras, where he married the daughter of the president of that republic, he moved to the United States and located at Central Valley, N. Y. There he established his home and reared his family, occupying his time and securing some income by teaching school. When he entered the war for independence a large estate which he owned was confiscated by the Spanish government, and this was afterward offered to him if he would return to Cuba and take the oath of allegiance, but he was so earnest in his desire to secure Cuban independence that he declined.

He was, however, in constant communication with the people of the island, and when the new insurrection was started in 1895 he became the head of the American junta, and it was largely through his wise and persistent efforts that the people of the United States were brought to understand the condition of affairs in the island. He is called from his long exile to be crowned with the honor of being Cuba's first chief executive.

I have become sufficiently acquainted with the man to be convinced of his greatness and goodness, and in congratulating him I expressed the hope, which I believe to be well founded, that his influence upon his people may be as far-reaching and as potent for good as the influence exerted by our first president upon the American people.

THE FIRST CUBAN CABINET.

The president has selected a strong and representative cabinet; Carlos Zaldo of Havana will be minister of state and justice. He is a leader of the radical wing of the democratic-republican party, which opposed adoption of the Platt amendment to the constitution of Cuba and opposed Palma for president until his opponent (Masso) had withdrawn from the race. Senor Zaldo is a lawyer and member of the Cuban-American banking house of Zaldo & Co.

The minister of the interior will be Dr. Tamayo, a doctor and member of the nationalist or military party (headed by General Maximo Gomez) from which both Brooke and Wood drew most of their cabinet material. Dr. Tamayo is a cousin to President Palma. He is the only member of General Wood's regime retained in office by the new executive in making up his cabinet.

Minister of Finance Garcia Montes, republican, is a lawyer and friend of General Mendez-Capote, under whom he served as a sub-secretary in the Brooke cabinet. Montes' appointment to the head of the finance department under the new republic is attributed almost solely to the personal influence of Capote. The latter voted for the Platt amendment.

The minister of agriculture, commerce and industries will be Emilio Terry, the millionaire sugar planter of central Cuba. He is also one of the leading bankers of Cienfuegos.

Minister of Public Instruction Eduardo Yero is a disciple of Jose Marti, former editor of the junta newspaper "Patria," in New York city; recently connected with the Cuban school system as a superintendent under Commissioners Frye and Hanna. He is a man of excellent educational qualifications.

Minister of Public Works Manuel Luciano Diaz is a Spaniard, and engineer and former railway superintendent.

CAPABLE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

That the people of Cuba are capable of self-government is not a question open for dispute. Henry Clay declared, in his defence of the independence of the South American republics, that God never made a people incapable of self-government; that it was the doctrine of thrones and a reflection on Jehovah to say that He created people incapable of self-government and left them to the government of kings and emperors. Clay's

logic is sound. Capacity for government is not a thing to be acquired or to be bestowed; it is inherent in the people. As individuals differ in wisdom, in self-restraint and in moral character, so nations differ, but it cannot be said that any nation has reached perfection in the science of government or in the art of administration; neither can it be said that any nation is so low down in the scale of civilization that it needs a foreign master. When Jefferson was invited to suggest laws for a French colony which located in the United States early in the nineteenth century, he declined, and gave as his reason that laws were the outgrowth of the history and habits of the people and that no alien could be sufficiently in sympathy with, or sufficiently informed about, a people to make their laws for them. Self-government is in itself a developing process and growth in capacity comes with the exercise of human rights under self-government. But one who visits Cuba and becomes acquainted with the people need not rest the case upon abstract principles, for he is convinced by observation that the Cubans not only have the right to govern themselves, but also have the ability to do so. That they will make mistakes is certain, but have we not make mistakes in the United States? That they may sometimes resort to violence instead of reason is possible, but have we not done so in the United States? It is even possible that the island may occasionally be the scene of civil war, but have we not had civil war in the United States? The child will stumble and fall in its effort to walk, but is there any other means by which it can learn to walk?

Cuban independence will not give the people a government free from fault, but it will give them a government as good as they deserve to have—a government that will improve as the people themselves make progress in virtue and intelligence. Free government does not mean that each citizen will have just such a government as he wants; it simply means that the people will have such a government as the majority desire, and that each individual can present his views to his fellows with the confidence that whatever is best for all will ultimately prevail.

A NEW COUNTRY—NEW PROBLEMS.

Several important questions will require immediate consideration. The question of sanitation will, of course, receive the attention of the new government; for Cuba cannot afford to be shut out from the outside world, and it cannot expect communication between the island and the United States unless that communication can be carried on without risk of disease.

Education is a problem of the first magnitude. While private and parochial schools can do much, the public schools must place education within the reach of every child and thus fit all for more intelligent participation in the affairs of the government. The deep and widespread interest already manifested in the improvement of school facilities gives great encouragement for the future.

It should be the policy of the government to encourage home building and home owning. Until human nature is entirely changed men will give better care and cultivation to land which they own than to land which they rent. The stimulus that one finds in the sense of proprietorship is indispensable to the highest effort. To this end the growth of great estates should be discouraged and a wider distribution of the land encouraged.

Saving should also be encouraged and to this end government savings banks would be useful.

The government must be careful to avoid the evils of private monopoly. Man is too frail to be intrusted with the power which a monopoly gives, and the president and his advisers should be on their guard against the dangers which come with the granting of franchises and concessions for the control of any branch of business. The government of intervention has reserved to the Cuban government the right to cancel and annul all