

CURRENT TOPICS

IT IS ANNOUNCED from Berlin that a great international exposition will be held in that city in 1912. Referring to this enterprise a writer in the Outlook says: "In the first place, the fair, it is announced, will be planned on an imperial scale that will surpass all previous expositions, whether those of London, Paris, Vienna, Chicago or St. Louis. In all world's fairs in recent years Germany has been noted for its magnificent displays and, naturally, an exposition in Berlin may be expected to be on a proportionately elaborate and magnificent scale, commensurate with Germany's commanding place in international affairs. That the fair will be planned with German thoroughness and carried out in every detail with the military-like precision and punctuality characteristic of Germany's exhibits in other world's fairs may be assumed as a preliminary, and, with the kaiser personally supervising the plans and general details, it may also be assumed that when the exposition of 1912 opens, at the hour and day advertised six years in advance, the exposition itself will be found fitly representative of the empire, and worthy also of what it is now confidently expected in Germany will six years hence be the continent's first capital in population, commerce and political importance."

CHARLES E. MAGOON, late governor of Panama, has been sent to Cuba and will act as governor of that island. Washington dispatches say that a statement issued under authority declares that President Roosevelt's purpose is to set the republic on its feet again and not to encourage annexation sentiment. Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, in his stump speeches, declares that Cuba will be annexed and that the American flag will "stay put" on the island. Senator Foraker is quoted as saying that there has been no legal intervention yet, but merely the use of the army and navy to protect the property of American citizens in Cuba. Senator Foraker says that in a legal sense only congress, acting with the president, can declare the intervention contemplated in the Platt amendment. If the Foraker view be accepted generally, then the whole question of intervention and annexation may be threshed out in congress, in which event it is not unlikely powerful interests will put annexation sentiment to the front. Mr. Palma, former president of Cuba, and family have left Havana and the American government is practically in control of the island.

SENATOR RAYNER, of Maryland, is quoted in a Baltimore dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald as saying: "If the president has his way we will annex everything down to Orinoco except the foreign possessions. The owners of the sugar plantations and the sugar trust will see to it that Cuba is in an apparent state of agitation so as to force annexation. I believe if we desired it we could maintain the independence of the island, but it does not look to me as if there was much sincerity in our purpose to do so. The president says the elections in Cuba are rotten. There is no doubt about that; that is the situation down to Terra del Fuego, but they are no rotter than the elections that keep the republican party in power in this country."

ALREADY SOME international complications have developed in the Cuban situation. A correspondent for the New York Herald says that Secretary Taft finds it necessary to make some precedents. This correspondent says that it is difficult for American representatives to explain just what relation Cuba bears to the United States, and just what are the responsibilities of this government. Already the American government has disclaimed responsibility for the acts of Cubans before or after intervention. The Herald correspondent says: "I found Mr. Taft and Mr. Bacon flanked by law books at the American legation, looking blankly out on the wide waters of the gulf. They could find nothing in international law to guide them. Government No. 1, representing the United States, has an agreement with government No. 2, representing Cuba, that

it has the right to intervene, and does so to restore order and becomes the government of No. 2, but declares that it really is not because in time government No. 2 will exist again. It is necessary to make a few precedents and Mr. Taft will make them, whether they become international law or not, but he is going very slowly in deciding the perplexing questions that are coming up. His aim seems to be to keep Cuba responsible for claims of all sorts, even if the damage be incurred or cause given after American occupation. Hold-over senators and representatives whose election was not questioned, are asking about their salaries during the suspension of the Cuban government. They are advised that the United States can not pay such items out of the Cuban treasury, but the new republic may see fit to do so. Minister Quesada at Washington has been asked to withdraw his resignation and the United States state department will notify all Cuban representatives abroad to keep their posts. Minister Morgan of the United States will remain here and officially call on Mr. Taft who, as head of the Cuban government, will extend his best wishes to Mr. Morgan's government, of which he is secretary of war. Mr. Taft sees the humor of the whole situation and has seen it all along and it helps him to deal successfully with serious phases of a delicate situation. He is taking up the threads of government one by one and believes he can get along without making any important changes in methods. The most important work is disbanding the militia and inducing the rebels to go home peacefully. It is progressing favorably. One of the results of the day's labor of the former peace commission was the addition to the heading of the 'Official Gazette of the Republic of Cuba,' of the words 'under the provisional administration of the United States.' The suggestion that the word 'limited' be inserted was regarded as unnecessary."

PERHAPS THE REPUBLICAN party's program in Cuba is well described by the St. Louis Globe-Democrat when it says "President Roosevelt says that Cuban acquisition is not contemplated by him. Probably it is not. Annexation is a function which the senate shares with the president if it is to be brought, by treaty. Both house and senate must participate in it if it is accomplished by joint resolution. By one or the other of these processes however, annexation is sure to come at an early day. If the president imagines that annexation can be staved off altogether, he is much more credulous than are the majority of his countrymen. On the face of the returns we are committed to get out of Cuba as soon as the Cuban people go through the motions of electing a new government, executive and legislative. Secretary Taft, who is Cuba's provisional head under the new dispensation, has promised this. President Roosevelt inspired the promise. It was the president's and the secretary's intention, when the promise was made, to live up to this pledge. Very likely it is their intention still. The president will recognize the inevitable before he sends his message to congress at the opening of the session seven and a half weeks hence. One of the first measures which will be introduced in congress when that body assembles on December 3 will be a bill to annex Cuba to the United States."

JOHN L. COWAN contributed to the New York Evening Post an interesting article, entitled "Tide of Gold Rapidly Rising." Mr. Cowan predicts that the world's present supply of gold may be doubled within the next ten years. Nevada, in his opinion, bids fair to outstrip South Africa as a gold producer. Mr. Cowan says: "The probable effect of a great and sudden increase in the world's supply of gold has long been a favorite topic for academic discussion. Many theorists have urged that the disorganizing of values, the disturbance of interest rates, the unsettling of wage conditions, and the encouragement of irrational speculation that would be caused by an unprecedented supply of new gold would be attended with grave danger and possible disaster. The correctness of this conclusion must now be test-

ed. A deluge of new gold, such as the world has never before known, is upon us; and unless all indications prove misleading, the tide will continue to rise for many years to come. The world's production of gold for the year 1905 amounted to approximately \$375,000,000, as compared with less than one-third of that amount in 1890, and but little more than one-half as much in 1896. For nine years the annual output has been increasing \$30,000,000 each year; while for the preceding decade the average annual increase in production was less than \$9,000,000. If the yearly production of the mines continues to grow as rapidly for the next ten years, the world's present supply will be more than doubled. Yet for a considerable portion of the nine-year period in which the production of new gold has been growing by leaps of \$30,000,000 each year, one of the world's greatest mining districts, the Witwatersrand, was entirely unproductive, or else yielded only a fraction of its normal capacity. The high water mark of production on 'the Rand,' before operations were suspended by the Boer war, was reached in August, 1899, just before the beginning of hostilities; and was not again equalled until December, 1904. The introduction of Chinese coolie labor had its effect, as is shown by the fact that while the production of the district in 1898, the last complete year before the war, was but \$60,000,000, in 1904, it had risen to \$80,000,000, and in 1905 to \$93,000,000. The assurance of an adequate supply of cheap labor is a guarantee that all the old mines will continue in operation, and that many new ones will be opened. Prospecting has greatly extended the known productive area, so that this great mining district will continue to increase its output. This year the production will exceed \$100,000,000. It may ultimately reach \$200,000,000 annually."

AN ASSOCIATED PRESS dispatch under date of St. Paul, Minn., October 4, follows: "Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin, it was announced today, has agreed to appear as a witness before the Minnesota state railroad and warehouse commission, which is now holding a hearing, regarding the reasonableness of commodity rates in this state and give testimony regarding the existence of 'yellow dog' funds said to have been contributed to by the railroads to bring about his political downfall. Senator LaFollette has not only agreed to himself appear and give testimony, but he says he will have other witnesses to support the contention of the attorney for the shippers' association that such funds were given out of the gross earnings of the companies. At the hearing today it was openly charged by Attorney Manahan that President Marvin Hughitt of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha road, had paid \$50,000 from the funds of the company as a contribution to the campaign funds of one of the national political parties. A. T. Clark, vice president of the same road, testified that there were vouchers to show that twenty men had been employed in recent campaigns in Wisconsin."

OUT OF PIECES of woolen yarn, unraveled from a sock and twisted together, a prisoner in the new federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., constructed an instrument which he used, recently, to saw through the top and bottom of a three inch steel bar. Mark A. Shipley, who resides at 4636 Cook Avenue, St. Louis, returned from Leavenworth and gave the story to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, which says: "A photograph of the sawed bars, showing the opening made, was given to Mr. Shipley by the warden. Shipley was one of the men instrumental in sending the man to prison. That a common piece of yarn could be made to cut the strongest steel bars, tested with acids and resisting steel saws, is a discovery that not only surprises police and keepers of jails and penitentiaries, but scientists as well. It is the first case of the kind on record, as far as can be learned, and the prisoner who used it in the Leavenworth penitentiary is the originator. The prisoner was confined in one of the isolation cells. A guard standing on a tier above noticed him working his hands back and forth around the bars and notified the guards on