

delegates elected by the Cuban people to frame a constitution and determine the relations that should exist between the government of Cuba and the United States. The calling of this constitutional convention to frame a constitution for a civil government to succeed the military one is evidence of the "pacification" of Cuba and indicates that the time had arrived for carrying out the pledge "to leave the government and control of the island to its people."

The senate committee on foreign relations, without waiting for an official report of the work of the convention, adopted an amendment to the army bill empowering the president to make certain demands upon the people of Cuba and making their enjoyment of self-government conditional upon the acceptance of these demands.

Independence is commonly understood to mean exemption from reliance upon or control by others. Cuba then must be exempt alike from control by Spain, the United States or any other country. Congress, however, demands that Cuba shall agree not to make a certain kind of a treaty. This is an assumption of the right to supervise the treaty-making power of Cuba and thus limit the exercise of a sovereign power. It amounts to saying that Cuba shall not make any treaty not agreeable to the United States.

If Cuba is independent, it is, in relation to the United States, a foreign country, and the supreme court of the United States has so declared. The senate demands that Cuba shall not "permit any foreign power to obtain * * * lodgment in or control over any portion of said island." Immediately following we demand that Cuba agree to violate this pledge. The government of Cuba must "sell or lease to the United States lands necessary for coaling or naval stations." Cuba is placed in the uncomfortable position of being required to agree to do and at the same time not to do a thing.

We also demand the right to intervene in the internal affairs of the island, whenever, in our opinion, it may be necessary to preserve Cuban independence and the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life and property, thereby for all time subjecting Cuba to the "control and jurisdiction of the United States."

These demands not only infringe upon Cuban independence but they will involve us in endless trouble and dissension. By the treaty of peace our obligations in Cuba are limited to the time of our occupancy. The senate resolutions would require us to be responsible in perpetuity to the nations of the world for the protection of life and property in Cuba and without any

means of enforcing our will except by war.

Are the senate resolutions mere meaningless memorials to be obeyed or not as the Cubans wish?

Coercion.

Or is the president to enforce obedience? Is he to say to Cuba: accept the conditions we lay down or we will remain in the islands forever and use the army and navy of the country to maintain our position? Can we with honor to ourselves and justice to the Cubans do this? How may we reconcile such an abbreviated form of independence with the absolute and unconditional pledge we gave them? Cuba is no more bound to receive instruction from the United States in the establishment of an independent government than from the British parliament or the Spanish cortes. It is an unmanly defence to assert that we may make demands upon Cuba in return for what we have done. We took up Cuba's cause for humanity's sake and it is ill-becoming a self-respecting nation to demand pay for an act of humanity. We can better obtain and merit Cuban gratitude by keeping our promises.

The situation in Cuba is an extremely delicate one. To intervene in the manner indicated by

Must Keep Faith.

the senate is to invite war. The Cubans are already chafing under the continuation of American occupation and, as Senator Morgan said in the senate, the attempt to coerce them will mean war. If we leave them alone there is the possibility of civil war. The South American republics are in a state of almost continual revolution. Instead of a minority patiently and quietly acquiescing in the will of the majority they get up a revolution and attempt to overthrow the government. This, it is alleged, will take place in Cuba if our government surrenders control. This might have been urged three years ago as a weighty reason against Cuban independence, but it is too late now. Whether right or wrong we then declared the people of Cuba to be capable of self government. And if we would be true to our promises we must now give Cuba absolute independence and trust the result to Providence. Better a civil war among the Cubans than a war between Cuba and the United States brought about by our perfidy. If civil war results or a condition of anarchy befalls the island, then we may, on the same ground we made war upon Spain, intervene again in Cuba and establish order, and perhaps by that time the people of Cuba will be convinced that their best hopes of liberty and freedom lie in annexation to the American republic. And if we are true to our pledges they will be convinced of our honesty of purpose and will be content to remain under our jurisdiction.

The Morton-MORE NON-RESIDENT PLUTOCRACY. Gregson Packing Company of Nebraska City has commenced buying hogs and will start their packing house in a few days. This house has been standing idle for a long time. Joy Morton has furnished the money and energy to revive it.—Fremont Tribune.

The esteemed advocate of the best intellectual and material development of the thrifty city which is always full of May days and good citizens, treads on dangerous ground. Only last Autumn the declamatory aggregation of J. Ham Lewis, Blarney Smyth, Oldham and the Peerless turned on their phonographic denunciations of non-resident capital right here in Nebraska City. Those sweet saints warned us all that ownership should be vested only in residents and that management also could safely be entrusted solely to fellow citizens.

"Oh, my friends, if we lose this time when we are fighting for that delicious song: 'My Country, 'Tis of Thee' and struggling with bewildered zeal, to conserve the Fourth of July, where, oh where, shall the common and commoner people find peace, rest and felicity."

Think of it! Two thousand hogs wrested, at five dollars a hundred pounds, from their rightful owners in a single day at Nebraska City by a capitalistic combination of non-residents! How can the peerless protector permit this wickedness?

PROTECTION OUTGROWN. We call attention to the article by General Stevens published in another column, showing how this country has outgrown "protection," and how the advantage it gives certain manufacturers is made use of by them to exact high prices at home, from our own people, while giving low prices to foreigners. Unquestionably all "protection" which is thus abused should be summarily abolished, and it will be abolished as soon as the people generally learn the facts.

FORESTRY LEGISLATION.

The state senate has passed Senator Arends' bill designed to encourage forestry in Nebraska by providing that the increased value of property by reason of growing such trees shall not be a subject for taxation, which virtually means that the trees so grown will not be taxed, although they will undoubtedly be of value. The bill provides that the portion of a farmer's land devoted to tree planting shall be limited in order to benefit by the new law, and there are other restrictions and provisions. This is a small step in the right direction. Nebraska is one of the states most needing legislation for the promotion of forestry and friends of the movement will be pleased to see its popularity grow until the state is converted into a picture land of groves and forests.—Norfolk News.