

three years; but with capital, and above all with sound currency, comes increased credit, and greater trade expansion. Literally, everything that enters into Cuban domestic economy, except sugar and tobacco is imported, and the per capita value of the imports during the period of American intervention has averaged \$45, an amount not equalled by any other people.

Cuban industry is almost wholly agricultural, and yet \$22,000,000 worth of food stuffs were imported during 1901. The Island is peculiarly adapted to the growing of fruit and vegetables, but \$400,000 was paid for the former and \$2,000,000 for the latter last year. Excepting a small quantity of hats and shoes, everything that man wears must be imported, and last year because of their poverty the Cubans spent only \$12,000,000 for these necessary articles. Prosperity being assured, \$50,000,000 annually would not pay for the clothing needed. In their poverty they paid out last year \$3,000,000 for house furnishings, when their health and comfort, if not their necessity, called for ten times as much. The tastes, customs and aspirations which create the many wants of modern society, are not unknown to this people, but are common to all classes among them. There is no peon, "coolie" or semi-barbarous class in Cuba, such as is found in many of the other island of the West Indies. Wages average as high as in the United States, and transactions are based on Spanish gold. Universal suffrage, decried by many when introduced into the new Constitution, is founded nevertheless on a correct principle. The Cuban laborer, although illiterate, is not ignorant. He has a fair knowledge of the world and a keen appreciation of what the world thinks of his country. His aspirations to share in this government are genuine and intelligent, and his patriotism has been proved upon many battlefields. The social and political conditions of Cuba are nearer akin to those of the United States than those of any other Latin-American country, notwithstanding that the latter may have to its credit eighty years of self-government. The law of propinquity is stronger than political systems, and trade is even more potent than proximity. The leaven of Americanism is at work in Cuba, and, as in California fifty years ago, if it is wisely encouraged, will convert this people quickly into a responsible and responsive American community.

This is the Cuban case; and the sole answer vouchsafed by those Americans who are still opposed to closer trade relations with this Island is that the influx of Cuban sugar will destroy a deserving but struggling

industry at home. They fear that the Cuban cane will destroy the American beet. A cursory glance at a few sugar statistics ought to dispel whatever fear there may be. The United States consumed practically 2,400,000 tons of sugar during the current year 1901, of which amount she imported, according to her treasury reports, 1,600,000 tons, leaving as her own production 800,000 tons, or precisely one-third of her consumption. Of the latter amount, one-half was produced in her insular possessions, leaving 400,000 tons as supplied by Louisiana cane and western beets. The beet sugar did not exceed 80,000 tons. Of the sugar imported, Germany supplied 225,000 tons of beet, the East Indies 300,000 cane, the British West Indies 110,000 cane, South Africa 100,000 cane and Cuba 580,000 tons. The balance, 285,000 tons, was gathered together from a score of minor producers. In the face of these conclusive figures, how can any American contend that the admission of Cuban sugar upon better terms, or even upon terms free of all duty, would destroy the sugar industry of the United States?

It must be self-evident that so long as the Cuban production does not equal the American consumption, it cannot imperil the industry in the United States. Last year the Cuban production was less than a fourth of the American consumption, and nearly one-half of the sugar used by the Americans was imported from countries other than Cuba. This year the United States will require 150,000 tons more, with no possible way of raising that much more within her own territory or in her insular dependencies. Sugar beets promise 75,000 tons additional, an increase of nearly 100 per cent, but there is still 75,000 tons needed, which must be bought and imported from some foreign country. Cuba stands ready to supply the entire increase required. Cuba may reach 800,000 tons in 1902. She cannot possibly exceed that figure. If the Cuban increase in production shall keep pace year by year with the American increase of consumption, the result will exceed the expectations of the best informed sugar growers in the Island. These expect Cuba to double her output of 1901 in the course of four years, an increase of about 150,000 tons a year. They base their estimates upon the product of 1894, when the Island was much better equipped with labor, animals, machinery, roads, railroads and shipping facilities than it is to-day. The yield of 1894 barely exceeded 1,000,000 tons. Assuming that the United States shall produce 1,000,000 tons this year, there will still remain a quantity to be imported by

that country double the product of Cuba.

The sole reply of the American obstructionists, therefore, falls to the ground. There is no peril to any interest in the United States from the admission of Cuban products under reduced tariff rates; 50 per cent differential on the Cuban product will not even affect the price of American granulated sugar. It will not take a dollar from the profits of the beet sugar producers. It will affect no interests, except the customs revenues of the United States; and for that loss, possibly \$15,000,000 a year, Cuba offers in compensation all of her trade, \$100,000,000 worth this year. She offers her millions of acres of idle land to the American investor. She invites in a hundred ways the enterprise, the capital and the labor of the great republic to come here and share the riches that lie undeveloped and unknown in her bosom. She wants to secure in a fair trade American food products, clothing, hardware, machinery, building material, millions of dollars' worth, and she wants moreover \$20,000,000 of American currency with which to place her financial system upon a sound basis. She offers all she has, and much more than any other country can offer, in fair exchange, dollar for dollar, to her powerful neighbor and protector—Havana Post, Jan. 19, 1902.

#### BANK PRESIDENT SUGGESTS IMPROVEMENT.

The Conservative:

In your issue of March 20th you outline a proposed method of sending small sums of money through the mails by making bills payable to the order of the receiver, and ask that someone point out the defects.

We would suggest that the plan would be more popular if sender was allowed to attach a postage stamp rather than an internal revenue, as the former are kept by everyone, but the latter can usually be obtained at the banks only. The government would receive the same income. In the writer's opinion the fee is too low and the government would be doing the business at a loss, to furnish the bill, redeem and destroy it, and receive two cents only.

To make it a success banks would have to undertake to be bothered with a mass of cash items in which there is no profit, a risk in handling an innovation that is in direct competition with their own business of selling exchange; possibly some might feel that it was not their duty to thus accommodate.

GEO. G. HALL.

Burlington, Kan., March 22, 1902.

#### STOPS THE COUGH AND WORKS OFF THE COLD.

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