

# How Cuba Thrives Under New Conditions

(By Frederic J. Hawks.)

There is doubtless no country in which Americans have a greater interest than Cuba, because we started this little island in business for itself. We have almost a paternal solicitude in its welfare, because without our instrumentality its present area of independence would have been impossible. The political life of Cuba may be reckoned by three periods—namely, the colonial, the American occupation and the present republic. A review of conditions as revealed by the vital statistics offers much that is interesting.

That the health of the people of the island continues to improve is cause for much congratulation. In the city of Havana the death rate is now 15 to the thousand, which is the most excellent showing, when it is considered that in 1880, under the old regime, the mortality was 40 to the thousand. In 1880 over 1,100 people died in Havana from yellow fever, the smallest number in the last year there was not a single death during the 12 months from either disease. It was rumored that Santiago was in a bad sanitary condition, but this is the one city where the streets are paved with asphalt. All thoroughfares have an abrupt incline toward the sea, hence the tropical rains help to prevent unsanitary accumulations if they are done. The continued beneficent administration of the sanitary crusade which was inaugurated in Cuba by the Americans makes the outlook for Panama seem hopeful.

## School Work in Cuba.

There does not seem to be any great increase in the school system; it is practically where the Americans left it. General Wood provided for about 25 per cent of the public revenues to be appropriated for public instruction, which was something like \$4,000,000 annually. The latest reports show that about 24 per cent of the revenues are being used for educational purposes, and that 80 per cent of this is for the primary and grammar schools. There was not a Spanish stenographer or typewriter in the island when the Americans took possession, but now there are numbers of both sexes. Several classes in shorthand and typewriting have recently graduated from the schools. Expert telegraph operators are also being turned out by the schools. The telegraph lines of the republic belong to the government. There are 31 stations connecting the six provinces. Last year about 100,000 messages were sent over the lines, at an average price of 43 cents per telegram. Cuba now has telegraphic communication with the United States, Mexico, Central and South America and the Antilles.

The law passed in January of this year, authorizing the president to dispose of the public forests, has caused considerable uneasiness among the lumbermen. There are millions of acres of wooded lands in Cuba, most of which are unexplored forests, containing building timber of all kinds, as well as that used for tanning and the manufacture of small. Aside from being very fine in texture, it is filled with extremely small

A portion of these lands have been rented and the forests exploited. The lumbermen are taking out mahogany, cedar, firewood, charcoal, etc. The value of Cuban timber may be better understood when it is stated that the mahogany of old Havana was some 200 years ago, yet which were as sound as when first cut.

## Growth of Fruit Industries.

The fruit industry is growing in importance. There is a fortune in the culture of pineapples. Some few of the sugar planters, pending the revival of the sugar industry, have turned their attention to this luscious fruit. Over 100,000 plants can be set in a single acre. When the growth is established cultivation is unnecessary, because the spiny points monopolize the ground to the exclusion of weeds, and animals can no more commit depredations than in a cactus field. Ninety per cent of the plants will bear in 12 to 18 months, and a rule five crops are cut from one planting. It was told by several dealers that there is never a glut in the market for pineapples, the demand always exceeding the supply.

The orange crop in Cuba this year may reach 100,000 boxes. The orange never has an acid taste, and its flavor is unusually fine. Grapes raised on the island are of a very excellent quality. Truck-farming is becoming an established industry. Last spring the early strawberries from Cuba found a ready sale in the New York market. Many new peach and apricot orchards are being planted.

There seems nothing to add about tobacco except that great success has attended the use of cheesecloth nets to protect the growing plants from the attacks of insects as well as to preserve the moisture. There are two growers of Pinar del Rio province, where the world's finest tobacco is grown, report a yield of 330 bales per caballeria from protected plants, while by the old method the output was up to 150 bales. The Cuban tobacco crop for the past season was 229,828 bales, which was marketed at an average price of \$11.75 per bale. The Cuban tobacco is showing on her bees, but much of the profit on bee culture is lost, because the bees, not finding themselves under the necessity of storing up food for a winter, die in the fall.

The sponge fisheries have always been an established industry in Cuba, the best being in Balabano and Calbarion, in the western part of the island. In 1903 the total production during the last season was 90,115 dozen sponges, including all grades, valued at \$501,575.42. This shows an increase of 72 per cent over the catch of the preceding season. Commercially it is conceded that the finest sponge in the world comes from Cuba, not excepting those from Greece and the Levant. The fine white and silky sponges are the most valuable. Aside from being very fine in texture, it is filled with extremely small



A CLASS OF CUBAN GIRL TELEGRAPH OPERATORS.

haire, which render it invaluable for surgeons.

**Revival of Sugar Business.**

So far as the number of sugar plantations is concerned, Cuba has never been able to recover lost ground. In 1877 there were 473 plantations in existence, while last year there were only 169 in operation. However, the necessity for cheaper methods of production has prompted the planters to install modern machinery, so that the output of the 169 plantations in operation last season was 1,000,000 tons, against 460,810 tons produced by the 473 crudely operated plantations which were working in 1877. Although the present price of sugar is low, the operators, by reducing the cost of produc-

tion and increasing the output, realize a fair profit, especially when they fully utilize their side issues of molasses and alcohol. The quick recovery of the sugar industry reflects no little credit upon the planters, showing great energy, labor and perseverance. At some places, notably Cienfuegos and Santa Clara, the output was greater than ever known before. Thousands of acres of virgin soil are being planted in cane and the crops of the future will be very large.

Agriculture, of course, is Cuba's forte. It is not probable that she will ever be much but an exporter of raw material. With a soil that will grow almost anything, this is the natural result. The government has transferred the industrial school, established

by General Wood at Santiago de las Vegas, into an agricultural experimental station, appropriating \$15,000 therefor. Mr. Frank S. Earle, agricultural expert, attached to the department of agriculture of the United States, has been engaged to organize, direct and manage this institution. It is divided into six sections: General agriculture, animal industry, including veterinary science, horticulture, biology, chemical and physical conditions of the soil, botany and vegetable pathology, including entomology. Such a school was greatly desired during the American administration, and it is very commendable in the officials of the new republic to have undertaken the project. The value of the experiments conducted at these stations is unquestionable, especially when

a country is so wholly dependent upon its soil as Cuba.

## Balance in Cuban Treasury.

The statement that there is a surplus of \$7,000,000 in the Cuban treasury is untrue. An official report from the department of finance covering the first three months of the present calendar year gives the cash in treasury at \$4,662,914.36. This balance covers appropriations already granted, some by special laws and others left by the military government; the return of sums unduly placed in the treasury; and the interest on the debt contracted for paying the army, all of which make a total of \$3,498,921.82, leaving therefore a net cash balance of \$1,163,992.54. When the American government withdrew from Cuba there was turned over

to the officials of the new republic \$25,170.23. While the cash in the treasury has increased since that time, there has been a corresponding decrease in expenditures. During the American occupation the island had to house an army at one time of about 40,000 men. Vast sums were spent on military, in building roads and bridges and other public works. The most of this heavy outlay of money was of such a nature that it only had to be made once, thus the increase in the cash balance, when that time is easily accounted for. This statement is not made to comment favorably or otherwise upon the American administration, or the administration of President Palma; it is merely a recital of fact.

The changes in the new Cuban tariff law have gone into effect. An increase of from 20 to 30 per cent is being levied on almost everything. Many articles, which have hitherto been relatively cheap in Cuba, can no longer be had at a low price. For instance, linen has always been within the reach of a moderate purse, but is now 15 per cent higher; the silk carpets, linens, women's goods, etc. Cottons have 30 per cent increase, while gold, precious stones, jewelry, silver articles, vegetable fibers, amber, sewing machines, carriages, horses, mules, etc., have 15 per cent increase; boots, shoes, pianos, watches, flour, fruits, coffee, etc., enjoy an increase of 30 per cent. Practically every article in general use is included in this increase, and it is thought that the tariff treaty neutralizes any hardship arising from the apparent increase in cost of living, though it is not easy to see how the laboring man derives special benefit therefrom.

The matter of coffee alone is a hard proposition. Heretofore no man in Cuba was too poor to have coffee. It is the life of the people, and the island is yet a long way from producing sufficient for home consumption. It requires several years to make coffee trees profitable, hence the capital that is being invested in the island is going into something which insures quick returns. As a result of the tariff, the stock market to give out the Yankee drummer will have a busy time in Cuba.

## Effect on American Trade.

The report for the first quarter, since the reciprocity treaty went into effect, shows a 20 per cent increase in the volume of trade with the United States. However, this is not to be wondered at, because the European merchants, knowing that the treaty was an accomplished fact, made special efforts to stock the Cuban market with their goods, and to supply everything necessary for consumption for at least a year to come. Therefore the American manufacturer had no opportunity to sell his goods, because there was absolutely no demand for them. This overstocking method is usually resorted to by those who expect to be affected by a change of tariff. As a result of the tariff, the stocks begin to give out the Yankee drummer will have a busy time in Cuba.

# Enemies of the Republic

(Continued from Preceding Page.)

Smith, who was there as special counsel to the city council's traction committee, sums it up thus in his article in the Atlantic Monthly for January, 1904: "It was understood that, as a condition of his election, the speaker was required to promise to carry out Hinman's (the editor of Verkes' 'Republican' Inter-Ocean) orders on all street railway measures and to support the city charter. In whatever the old man (Lorimer) tells me; and he tells me to do about traction as Hinman says. Hinman himself announced that there would be no traction legislation at that session."

## Bosses Against Chicago

Congressman Lorimer, the boss, did not want to appear at Springfield, because he was running a "good business" for Mayor Dan Ryan. He was a member in Chicago, and his candidate was for traction legislation. But one of the city's bills, drawn by Walter L. Fisher, of the Municipal Voters' League, was going through the senate. This was the Muller bill, and the "combine" under the whip of the league, the Chicago newspapers, and public opinion generally, sent the measure down to the house. Lorimer had to go to Springfield, and he took personal charge in the house. It was indeed an emergency. The Muller bill was safely buried in the municipal committee. But clearly, with the lobby full of Chicago reformers who were coming from citizen associations, to say nothing of his own "business man for mayor" all demanding legislation—some bill had to pass. Lorimer gave one day the word for action, and both parties in the house held caucuses that evening. The result was bad—"for the organization." Lorimer sent for the legislators one by one, and late at night called a conference in his own room in the Lyceum building, where Ringler, the Chicago aldermanic committee, Graye Stuart, his business candidate for mayor; Frank O. Lowden (a candidate this year for governor), Edwin Burritt Smith, and others; Mr. Smith, Lorimer's congressional mind you, not a state legislator—opened the discussion by asking, "What do you want?" Lorimer declared that the Muller bill was dead, and he offered as a substitute a bill he called the Lindley bill. That the official representatives of Chicago rejected; "It bore unmistakable signs," Mr. Smith says, "of tender regard for the traction interests." Lorimer accepted the nomination, he proposed other himself, and when these failed to satisfy the friends of the city, the boss, a leader of the Republican party in Illinois, said the Lindley bill was all Chicago. He would not accept it with these amendments, pull down all opposition in the house and from the Chicago press, and actively support the bill. It is the Lindley bill or nothing."

## Defeat of Republican Bosses

The Chicago press had been telling the city and state all about the situation, and with the Allen bill episode in mind, the organization legislators were anxious and weak. Chicago decided to reject the Lindley substitute and to fight its own boss on the floor of the house. With Sherman's "Fighting Verkes" and the Democrats who were willing to help they had the votes, and all that they needed was a roll-call. But the speaker, asked if he would allow one, refused to say. For two days there were skirmishes, and the voting showed that the "organization" was in a precarious

condition, but at last the speaker rose, pale, but with level in hand, to force the amendments to the Lindley bill, and before him stood a score of strong men ready to defend him. The bill was called up, and Mr. Lindley offered Lorimer's amendment number one. The law required the house to pass the amendment five members. Ninety-six rose and shouted "Roll-call!" The speaker would not hear; he put the amendment and amid confusion and outcries, swung down his gavel and declared the amendment carried. Amid great excitement amendment number two was offered; members cried "Roll-call! Roll-call!" But again the gavel fell and the second amendment was "carried," and so, with the storm waxing, numbers three, four, five, six were hammered through. But at the sixth the house broke and there was a rush for the speaker's chair. If Lorimer had been for the women back of him, missiles would have been hurled upon him; as it was the wave of angry members rose up to the chair and the speaker fled through a back door.

## Deenan the Folk of Chicago

Deenan is a Cook county Republican leader, a politician, an associated Chicago politician, and a member of the Chicago city council. He is not afraid of politicians. All the city's best reform efforts have been directed, not to put reformers in office, but rather to force the politicians to represent the people, and the "news-paper trust" and the voters' leagues are developing a class of politicians, not always sincere, who recognize that public opinion is a constant force in politics. Deenan is an honest man, never heard his integrity questioned. He has been state's attorney since 1895, and his record is one of orderly, efficient, fearless, and aggressively honest service. He did not go forth, like Folk, seeking out corruption in all places, but he performed the duties that came to him with tireless, masterful energy, and there is a line of cells in one state prison so full of business men whom Deenan convicted, that it is called "bankers' row." Deenan is a remarkable man. But, for the sake of simplification, let us say only that he is a politician who believes that it is good politics to serve the public.

## Boodle a Democratic Issue

Now for the Missouri-Illinois parallel. When Mr. Folk realized that the political corruption of St. Louis was but a part of the financial-political state system, which has supplanted a representative democracy with an oligarchy of criminals, he started what he has called a counter-revolution. He saw, moreover, that his party, controlled by boodlers, was the organization of this treason. The Democratic party represented not democracy, but the enemies of democracy. What did he do? Because he was a Democrat, he appealed first to the Democrats of Missouri, because they were Democrats, to clear out first of all the Democratic boodlers because they were Democrats. Then he was putting party loyalty to a pretty severe test. What happened? Such a splendid exhibition of genuine patriotism as this country seldom has a chance to display. The Democrats of Missouri rose up and they smashed the rotten old party, not all the pieces; they are making it fit for any American citizen to support. And the good citizens of Missouri will be asked to support it, for, incidentally, the Democrats insisted that the nomination of Mr. Folk for governor. He will make his campaign on the same issue, "boodle," and since the Republican party also boodled, he will ask all men of all parties to let Deenan organize an administration that will represent, not bribery, but all the men of Missouri.

The issue was not made so clear, nor so personal, nor so exciting in Illinois, but Illinois seems to be more intelligent politically than Missouri, less partisan, and boodle was the issue there

## Chicago

If Deenan, or, better still, if Chicago had made as careful a canvass of the country as Folk did of Missouri, I believe that he would have won in Missouri. As it was, the Republicans of Illinois did not decide. The country districts followed their leaders and the nomination was left to the convention. Deenan, with his patronage-built state organization; Lowden, with the old bosses, the special interests, and his money; and Deenan, with Cook county, an Illinois newspaper, and the best public opinion—these three led in strength, and a deadlock ensued which, for duration, was unprecedented in the state.

## Federal Branch of the System

The efforts to break it developed the apex of the system. I said a while ago that the United States government was a part of the state and municipal systems of Illinois and Chicago. Speaker Cannon of the national house of representatives was chairman of the convention, and United States Senators Cullom and Hopkins were present also. These men—the whole "federal" branch, as they are called—"worked" for Lowden. Not that they cared especially for him, though one of them remarked that it was well to have "a governor with a heart." But their influence was for "harmony," the "good of the party," of the state, nor even of the Republican citizens of the state—but of the old party leaders and "the thing as it was." Well, they did help to break the deadlock. Chicago and Illinois resound federal interference. When this spring the Municipal League made its successful fight to beat "Doc" Jameson in that boss' own ward, Congressman Lorimer and Senators Cullom and Hopkins were converted, though the deadlock held for two days more, the current of sentiment was toward Deenan; and Yates, to get even with the ring that had used, then dropped him, directed his delegates to vote for Deenan.

## What Republicans Represent

There was a "deal" between Yates and Deenan. But the terms were honorable, and besides, "political deals" are, like politicians, not bad in themselves. They are bad when they trade the public interest off for special and personal interests, and the deal which carried out the wishes of the best public opinion in Illinois and made Charles S. Deenan the Republican candidate for governor (and Lawrence Y. Sherman, the candidate for lieutenant-governor), did for the Republican party of Illinois, what the Democratic voters of Missouri did for the Democratic party, when they sent delegates instructed for Folk—restored the control to the people of the party. That deal completed the political ruin of the Lorimer-Jameson ring, and, I verily believe, begins a movement to carry on out into the state the reform which was begun eight years ago in Chicago—a reform which aims to make the government, municipal and state, represent not bribers, not corrupt politicians, not corrupting business men, but the common interests of the state—the citizens and friends, not the enemies, of the republic.

## Not Ready to Report

Goodwin—We have a new minister at our church. Textly—So? How do you like him? Goodwin—Don't know yet. My wife hasn't met his wife.

## Royalty and Republics—A Contrast

(By Olof Z. Cervin.)

FURTHER, July 9.—The other day I had occasion to look up a drug store. Some one was in need of an ointment and wanted a certain patent medicine with properties something akin to witch hazel. But I had come to the wrong store. I was politely told that no patent medicines were kept in any drug stores, but could be had at the grocer's around the corner.

"But," said the druggist, "I can give you exactly the same thing and for a less price; for we have the formula, but cannot use the proprietary name." I bought his substitute, for he seemed an honest fellow and willing to talk. Now, the druggists of Sweden have been to fight the proprietary medicines, and believe they can do so without any loss to the consumer. They make two claims—first, that most patent medicines are mere swindles, schemes to dupes the innocent; and, second, that all patent medicines are really beneficial preparations, and that the only reason why they are sold at exorbitant prices is because the patent medicine crank must buy his favorite pill or mixture at the grocer's or in the department stores. I wonder if it would suit 90 per cent of the curative powers when thus divorced from the halo and mystery of the drug stores and absolutely ignored by the doctors.

## CHOCOTAW DEATH PENALTY

Guilty Man Was Shot by the Sheriff in Presence of His Friends.

From the Kansas City Journal.

The street commissioner of Atoka has removed one of the oldest Indian landmarks of the town. It was a bolt of iron 10 feet long and 12 inches in diameter, in the middle of what is now known as B street. It was placed there 48 years ago by the Choctaw Indians, and for many years was used by them as a whipping post. Under the Indian laws any person who was convicted of a crime was whipped on the bare back. For the second offence he was given 100 lashes; for the third offence the penalty was death.

In inflicting the death penalty a block of wood was laid on the ground against the post. The victim was stripped of his waist and was made to sit upon this block. His hands were tied behind him, his arms reaching around the post, with a white spot painted over his heart. The sheriff, who was the executioner, started at the feet of the prisoner and walked 10 steps toward the sun.

He then turned and facing the man cackled his gun and announced to the cowed throng the crime for which the man was to die. The friends of the doomed man were then permitted to go to him and bid him farewell. The father, mother or wife were the last persons permitted to speak to him. They invariably begged of him to be brave, and die like a man, and expressed their hope that he would meet him at the happy hunting grounds. Then the sheriff took aim at the white spot over the Indian's heart, and so true was the marksmanship of the executioner that a second shot was never necessary. Instant death being produced by the first.

It is said by those who know that not less than 100 persons have been tied to the Atoka whipping post and whipped, and that more than 50 have been shot at the foot of it.

## SHADE NIGHTS ON LITERATURE

From the Chicago Journal.

Othello was giving Deenan a warm line of graft.

"That's a fine case of law you've got," said Deenan, admiringly.

"Yes," responded Othello, "my job is real money."

"I think," said Othello, "that you've proved that even in the early days of courtship he was a regular cut-up."

Cleopatra was sailing down the Nile with Antony.

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