

THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF CUBA.



TOMAS ESTRADA PALMA.

It is both surprising and significant that Tomas Estrada Palma should have been chosen the first president of the Cuban republic by the Cuban people.

It would be unfair to President Palma not to give him credit for playing an important part in the achievement of Cuban independence.

FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

The Long, Desperate Struggle That Brought Cuban Independence.

It Began Almost with the First Settlement of the Spaniards in the Island—Some Men Whose Names and Deeds Will Live in Cuban History.

CUBA'S fight for freedom from Spanish rule may be said to have begun almost before the Dons became masters of the island.

Spanish oppression and Spanish cruelty reigned in Cuba from that day until in the



GEN. GALIXTO GARCIA.

summer of 1898, when, with the assistance of the United States, the patriots banished their oppressors from the island forever.

Almost from the day of the Spaniards' first landing in Cuba until the signing of the peace protocol that put a stop to the war of 1898 the Dons had found it necessary to meet opposition to their reign by the use of armed force.

were their operations directed against the Spaniards in Cuba alone, but in every part of the western world where the Spanish flag floated.

It was not until late in the eighteenth and early in the nineteenth centuries that the people of Cuba began to think seriously of freedom, or rather of righting existing wrongs, and forcing from the mother country a more liberal form of government.



GEN. MAXIMO GOMEZ.

from Havana to reestablish them at her home ports. The industry had existed in the island from 1726, and the closing of them was bitterly resented.

During her earlier history the development of Cuba's great agricultural resources progressed but slowly. Her ports were closed to the commerce of all the world save Spain, and it was not until after circumstances which Spain had opposed for years that which finally overcame her, that the Cuban planters began to really realize the narrowness of Spanish rule.

This fact is evidenced by the issuance of the royal decree of May 25, 1825, defining the functions of the captain generals of Cuba, a decree which invested them with practically the powers of oriental despots, and this decree remained in force until Spain had been driven from the island.

Even before the issuing of this decree had come the first attempt to break the rule of Spain. Secret political societies had begun organizing as early as 1829 under the name of "Sociedad de Bolivar," and in 1823 these societies made an attempt at open revolt.

The next revolution came in 1826, and was planned by Cuban refugees in Mexico and Colombia. The scheme included the leadership of the great liberator, Simon Bolivar, but it resulted in nothing tangible through lack of adequate support.

Another revolution came in 1844 in which the principals were the slaves on the sugar plantations about Mantanzas. With some

difficulty Spain suppressed this revolt, and punished in various ways 1,346 of those convicted of participating in it, but the seed of liberty then planted resulted in later years in the patriots who fought the long ten years' war, and again those who led to ultimate victory the forces of Cuba in the last war.

The next Cuban revolution, started a year later, was led by an ex-officer in the Spanish army, Narciso Lopez. He was unsuccessful at the time, but his efforts led finally to the attempt of this government to purchase Cuba from Spain in 1848.

In 1854 came both the attempt of Gen. Quitman, of Mississippi, for the invasion of Cuba, which resulted disastrously to the leaders, they being captured and executed, and the Ostend Manifesto which recommended the purchase of Cuba for \$120,000,000.

It was this long struggle that brought to the fore such men as Gomez, Garcia, Palma and many others destined to live in the history of the new republic as its names of Washington, Lee, Putnam and a score of others live in our own history.

The story of the "ten years' war" is a story of ten years of hardships and sacrifice. It brought with it the first declaration of Cuban independence, signed on October 10, 1898, and also the first election of Cuban officers including a president and vice president and the appointment of cabinet officers.

It was Carlos M. de Cespedes, at the head of 128 ill-armed men, who started this conflict, and who issued the proclamation of Cuban independence at Yara. Cespedes was a lawyer of Bayamo at the beginning of the war, but he was a natural leader of men, and soon had 15,000 men with which to oppose Spain.

For the first two years of the war success attended almost every effort of the Cuban



GEN. ANTONIO MACEO.

army, which increased rapidly until it had reached the numbers of 50,000 men, but the ability of Spain to furnish war materials and fresh troops was greater than that of the insurgents, and the rank and file of the Cuban army began finally to tire of the struggle.

It was during this war, in 1873, that there occurred the incident of the steamer Virginus which came so near resulting in war between Spain and the United States, and which did result in some pointed correspondence between officials of the two countries, and the execution as pirates at Santiago of 53 persons.

The incidents of the last revolution that started in 1894 and led to American intervention for the pacification and liberation of the island are too well known to need any recounting here. The leaders who looked to the Cuban standard were men who had fought for Cuban freedom from 1898-78.

them, and what Spain at first believed to be but the beginning of a negro riot that could be suppressed within a short time proved to be the final conflict for Cuban freedom, a conflict that has waged on sea and land for more than a century.



GEN. RIVERA.

WRIGHT A. PATTERSON.

Havana Twice Burned.

The city of Havana has twice been destroyed by fire set by French privateers. The first destruction occurred in 1538, soon after the city was founded, and to prevent a repetition of the disaster Fernando de Soto, then governor of the island, built the first of the fortresses intended for the defense of the city, the Castillo de la Fuerza, but this proved ineffective, for the city was again destroyed by the French in 1554.

AMERICA'S FIGHT FOR CUBA.

We Have Done Battle Not Only with the Sword But with the Scrubbing Brush as Well.

So fresh in the minds of the American people are the events of the historic summer of 1898 that they really need no recalling at this time when the complete fruition of the objects of the struggle between the United States and Spain are now to be realized in the establishment of that independent government in Cuba which this government guaranteed when it declared the warring of the sword for the island's independence to be a part of our duty.

The destruction of our good ship Maine; the declarations and appropriations voted by congress; the mobilizing of armies and fleets; the victory of Admiral Dewey at Manila; the dispatch of troops to Santiago; our naval victory off that harbor; the fall of the city; the capture of Porto Rico, and Spain's cry for peace at almost any price, all these incidents need but a mention to recall them to the minds of the people of this country.

With the sword we drove Spain out of Cuba, our soldiers and sailors reaped won-



MAJOR-GEN. LEONARD WOOD.

derful victories in rapid succession, but Spain left behind her a harder struggle than her armies or her fleets had given us—it was with dirt and disease.

How well Gov. Gen. Wood has conquered this foe is evidenced from the health reports from Cuba. First at Santiago, and later throughout all the island he has persistently fought the battle for clean cities and good sanitation until to-day Havana, instead of being the breeding ground of all the various types of malignant fever, is considered as healthful as almost any city in the United States.

He has done more than this. He has opened the public schools, and has so extended the system that practically all the children of school age have now offered them the advantages of an education, and has instilled in the hearts of the people a desire for learning, a desire which their own government will now be in a position to fulfill.

Gen. Wood, as the representative of the American people, has built a government of the people, for the people and by the people of Cuba into whose hands our country can now safely place the reins of control, and Gen. Wood's name must be added to the list of Cuban heroes whose memories will long live in the hearts of the people of "the ever faithful isle."

FACTS ABOUT CUBA.

Cuba contained at the time of the breaking out of the last revolution 100,000 farms, ranches and plantations, valued at \$200,000,000.

No less than five minor revolts occurred in Cuba between 1878, the date of closing the "ten years' war," and 1894 when the last war began.

From 1827 to 1894 Cuba contributed directly to the Spanish treasury the sum of \$89,000,000. Since 1897 the island has contributed but little directly to the Madrid treasury, but indirectly much of the entire revenue of the island has reached Spain.

From the eastern end of Cuba to Hayti is 54 miles, and to Jamaica 85 miles; from the northern shore on the western end it is 96 miles to Florida, and from Cape San Antonio, the western extremity of the island, to Yucatan is 130 miles.

Cuba is nearly seven times as long as Long Island. It stretches from a point about even with New York City on the east to Cincinnati on the west, a distance of 759 miles. In width it is nowhere greater than 100 miles, while at places it is as narrow as 20 miles. There are 1,300 small islands and keys adjacent to and belonging to Cuba, and these, with the main island, comprise an area of about 45,000 square miles.

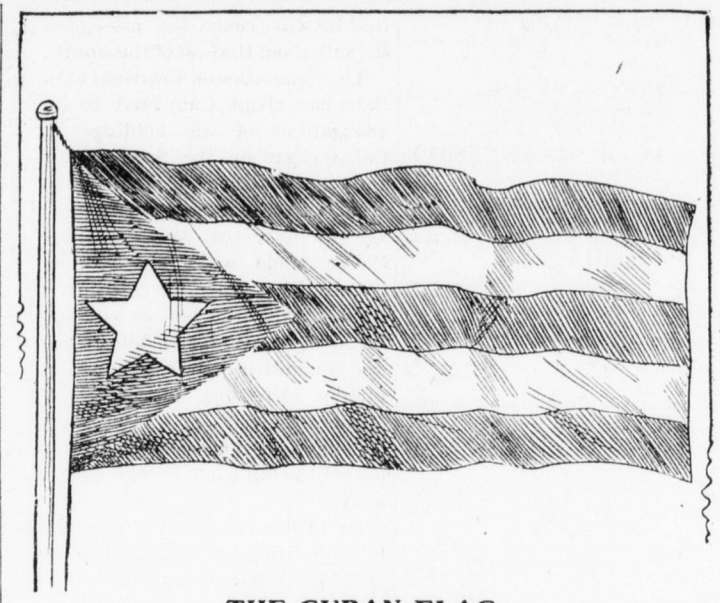
Cuba had at the close of the war with Spain about 1,000 miles of railway divided into a number of small lines. Since the evacuation of the island by Spain Sir William Van Van Horne, the builder of the Canadian Pacific railway, has been building a new trunk line that, when completed, will traverse the island from one end to the other, and, with its various branches, will comprise more than another thousand miles of railway line.

"The Ever Faithful Isle."

Cuba has been known the world over as "The Ever Faithful Isle," a name it received at the time the Spanish Bourbons were deposed by Napoleon in 1808. At that time each member of the provincial Cuban council took an oath to preserve the island for its legitimate sovereign.

A Great Cuban Disaster.

One of the greatest disasters in Cuban history was the hurricane of October 14, 1870, in which some 2,000 lives were lost.



THE CUBAN FLAG.

It was under this banner, which is now to represent the youngest of the world's nations, that the Cuban patriots fought and died for many years in the long struggle for freedom. It has led them on to victory in many a hard-fought battle, and it will be a proud day for these patriotic veterans when they see that emblem floating from the flagstaves of the government buildings, and hear the roar of the cannon of foreign warships in the harbor as they pay tribute to the glory of that new nation of which the Cuban people have so long dreamed.

RESOURCES OF CUBA

Her Greatest Wealth Lies in a Fertile and Productive Soil.

Possibilities of Sugar and Tobacco Cultivation Judged by the Records of the Past—Valuable Woods, Fruits and Minerals.

URING years of peace in the past Cuba has produced more cane sugar than any other country in the world. She produces more than twice the cane sugar manufactured in Java, her nearest competitor, and more than five times as much as is produced in any other country.

The beet and cane product both considered, Cuba is surpassed by but one country, Germany, with one and one-half million tons, a sugar producer, and is equaled by but one other, Austria.

Cuba has exported in one year more than 6,000,000 pounds of leaf tobacco and more than 134,000,000 cigars in addition to heavy exports of baled tobacco of less valuable varieties.

The shipping of nine Cuban ports, which includes Havana, for the year 1894 amounted to 3,338,539 tons, carried by 3,184 vessels.

The above three paragraphs give a general idea of industrial Cuba of the past; they can scarcely be classed as even prophetic of the future.

Cuba and the adjacent small islands belonging to it occupy an area of 45,000 square miles—a little less in size than the state of New York. Of this total area less than 10 percent, has ever been under cultivation; 70 percent is classed as forest land, and large quantities of the remainder is virgin soil awaiting development by a progressive government.

When such a people under such a government have turned this unclaimed area into productive territory we shall have the Cuba of the future.

But to go back again to the Cuba of the past. Cane sugar development has been confined to the vast central plain lying to a great extent in Matanza province. In the season of 1892-93 this great plain yielded 1,054,212 tons of sugar, valued at \$80,000,000. The sugar plantations of this territory vary in extent from 100 to 1,000 acres, and employ an average of one man to each two acres under cultivation.

For several years the sugar industry in all the West Indian islands has been in a deplorable condition, but different causes must be assigned for the condition in Cuba than for the other islands. In Cuba it has been the series of rebellions and insurrections that have caused the decline of the industry. During the periods of comparative peace the industry has prospered, and the reason may be found in the fact that the Cuban planters have gone about the production of sugar on a large scale, and equipped with the most modern machinery.

While sugar is the staple crop of first importance in Cuba tobacco has an important place in the island's industries, and is even more valuable than sugar when the acreage under cultivation is considered. As Matanzas is the center of the sugar industry so is Pinar del Rio the center of the tobacco in-



GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S PALACE AT HAVANA.

This is the white house of Cuba. In it have resided a long list of Spanish governors, and for nearly four years it has been the official home of Gen. Leonard Wood. When he surrenders the reins of government into the hand of President Palma he will also step out of this famous official residence and turn it over to the family of the first president of the Cuban republic. The palace is a substantial building of masonry thoroughly in keeping with the Spanish tendency toward extravagance, and will make an elaborate residence for Cuba's executive.