THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF CUBA.



TOMAS ESTRADA PALMA,

It is 15th surprising and significant that Tomas Estrada Palma should have been chosen the first president of the Cuban republic by the Cuban people. It is surprising, because other Spanish-American people have at all times favored their soldiers, or rather the soldiers have favored themselves, with office, and it was hardly to have been expected that Cuba, with so many revolutionary heroes to choose from, would have departed from this custom. It is significant, because it points to a new method of government in what has for so many years been a hotbed of revolution. President Palma stands for a government of peace rather than that of the military dictator, and his selection gives promise of a strict compliance with the expectations of the United States in the government of Cuba. His announced policy is the development of the schoolhouse rather than the soldier in his native country.

His announced policy is the development of the schoolhouse rather than the soldier in his native country.

It would be unfair to President Palma not to give him credit for playing an important part in the achievement of Cuban independence. During the long struggle of the ten years' war he fought in the ranks of the revolutionists, rising to the rank of general in the Cuban army, and afterwards being selected as president of the provisional government. He was later captured by the Spaniards and confined in Spain until after the close of the war. When he was finally released his estates were confiscated and he was forever banished from his native island. He settled finally in Honduras, where he married the daughter of the president of that republic and became the postmaster general in the cabinet of his father-in-law. Afterwards he removed to the United States and for 18 years conducted a school for Spanish-American boys at Central Vailey, N. Y. At the breaking out of the last war in Cuba he became the head of the junta in New York city, and rendered efficient service in that capacity. His selection as president was favored by practically every Cuban general of note, prominent among his supporters being Gen. Gomez. The office came to him entirely unsought, and he will take his seat as the first chief executive of the Cuban republic with no political ties to bind him.

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



UBA'S fight for freedom from Spanish rule may be said to have begun almost before the Dons begun almost before the Dons became masters of the island. When, in 1511, the son of Columbus determined to take possession of Cuba in the name of Spain he selected Diego Velasquez to command an advance guard, as it were, of some 300 men. This force met with virtually no resistance from the natives save

qualty no resistance from the natives save from one chief, Hatuey, a refugee from His-paniola, or Hayti as now called, where he had witnessed the barbarities of the new comers and resented their invasion of his new home, as he, unlike the others, knew from terrible experience what such a com-ing meant to the native people. But Hatuey like many others who came after him in hater years, was unsuccessful in opposing the will of the Dc:s, and paid for his desire for freedom with his life, being burned at the stake as a fugitive slave.

ssion and Spanish cruelty 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.

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. This opposition was not at all times of sufficient vigor to be dignified by the name of revolution, but it was constant. For many years it was more of a sea fight than a land fight and was carried on by the buccancers bose object was to drive Spain from the west seas, not because they were friendly to the native Cubans, but from motives of revenge against the mother country, and as allies of other European nations 2t war with Spain. Nor

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

It was not until late in the eighteenth and 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. England's colonies had thrown off the yoke of oppression, and the seed of freedom that had sprouted on the mainland had been carried to the island. A grievance that brought with it atmed resistance came in 1796 when with it armed resistance came in 1796 when Spain withdrew the ship building yards



GEN. MAXIMO GOMEZ.

from Havana to reestablish them at her 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. But Cuba at that time demanded only her rights as a loyal colony, and not the absolute freedom for which the best in the color of the color of the color.

colony, and not the absolute freedom for which she has since fought.

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 but which finally overcame her, that the Cuban planters began to really realize the narrowness of Spainsh rule. The change that began to be apparent in the colonial policies of other European nations early in the last century was not shared by Spain, who but attempted to draw the lines tighter.

tighter.

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 1820 under the name of "Soles de Bolivar," and in 1823 these societies made an attempt at open revolt. But the attempt was fruitless of results other than the arrest and punishment of the leaders.

difficulty Spain suppressed this revolt, and AMERICA'S FIGHT FOR CUBA. punished in various ways 1,346 of those con-victed 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 ulti mate victory the forces of Cuba in the las

The next Cuban revolution, started a year 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. The overtures made to the Spanish government by President Polk were of no avail, however, and Lopez continued his efforts at liberation. and Lopez continued his efforts at libera-tion until he was finally captured by the Spanish authorities on Cuban soil and exe-cuted in 1851.

In 1854 came both the attempt of Gen In 1834 came both the attempt of Gen. Quitman, of Mississippi, for the invasion of Cuba, which resulted disasterously to the leaders, they being captured and executed, and the Ostend Manifesto which recommended the purchase of Cuba for \$120,000,000. But this, like the previous attempt at purchase, came to naught, and the island was left to drag along in comparative peace until the breaking out of the "ten years' war" in 1868. war" in 1868.

It was this long struggle that brought to

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 the names of Washington, Lee, Putnam and a score of others live in our own history. They are the grandest names Cubans will ever know; true patriots, who yet live to guide the young republic through its first troubled waters with the same courageous hands that taught the Cuban soldiers to match Cuban strategy and daring against the heavier forces of and daring against the heavier forces of Spain. To this list must be added that of Maceo and the others who sacrificed their lives in the last struggle for Cuban freedom, but demanded of Spain a dear price for the

sacrince.

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, 1888, 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 con flict, and who issued the proclamation o Cuban independence at Yara. Cespedes was a lawyer of Bayamo at the beginning of the war, but he was a natural leader of men war, but he was a natural leader of men, and soon had 15,000 men with which to oppose Spain. It was he who virtually wrote the first Cuban constitution which was promulgated at Guaimaro on April 10, 1869.

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

the insurgents, and the rank and file of the Cuban army began finally to tire of the struggle. From 1873 until February, 1878, the war dragged along in a desultory way, and finally ended with the peace of San Antonio which guaranteed pardon to all who had taken part in the conflict, and representation for Cuba in the Spanish cortes.

It was during this war, in 1873, that there occurred the incident of the steamer Virginius 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. iago of 53 persons.

tago of 33 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 any recounting here. The leaders who flocked to the Cuban standard were men who had fought for Cuban freedom from 1868-78. Jose Marti started from New York February, 1895, Gomez, An tonio and Jose Maceo, Crombet, Cebreco, Borrero, Angel Guerra and a score of others gathered again on Cuban soil from different points to again begin the fight for Cuban freedom. In time Garcia, Robi, Rivera and others joined



GEN. RIVERA.

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.

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. ernment in Cuba which this governmen

ernment in Cuba which this government guaranteed when it declared the wielding 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 for peace at almost any price, all these idents need but a mention to recall them no the minds of the people of this country History was never made more rapidly that it was made during that summer, and it was history of which the country and the world may well be proud in after years. With the sword we drove Spain out of



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 ith dirt and disease. How well Gov. Gen. Wood has conquered

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 taught to the Cubans the necessity of cleanliness, a lesson they are not essity of cleanliness, a lesson they are not

cessity of cleanliness, a lesson they are not likely to soon forget.

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

Gen. Wood, as the representative of the American people, has builded a government of the people of Cuba into whose hands our country can now safely place the reigns of control, and Gen. Wood's name must be added to the list of Cuban heroes whose m

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,

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

From 1827 to 1864 Cuba contributed directby to the Spanish treasury the sum of \$89,000,000. Since 1867 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 Cincinwidth 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 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 Candian 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 main line of this road from Santiago to Nipe, in Santa Clara province, is now nearing completion, and will be from Santiago to Nipe, in Santa Char prov-ince, is now nearing completion, and will be opened to traffic in the early summer, and the remainder of the system will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible. The older lines of railway are practically all in the western portion of the island, and several of them center at Havana, or connect with Havana

"The Ever Faithful Isle."

"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. The island contributed voluntarily \$5,000,000 to the Spanish the Napoleonic wars. tributed voluntarily \$5,000,000 to the Spaning tréasury during the Napoleonic wars, and declared war against France for deposing the Spanish sovereign. For such fidelity the Cuban people were rewarded by having taken away from them the rights of their provincial council, and imposing upon them a line of captain generals whose despotic rule continued down to the day this country wrested the colony from the hands of the Dons.

Captured by Morgan,

The buccaneer Morgan captured and disconnected Havana in 1669, just previous to his exploits at Panama and along the Pa-cific coast of Central and South America.

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 flagstaffs 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. It is this emblem that will replace the stars and stripes over all the government buildings in Cuba on May 20, and as it is set floating from the flagstaffs it will be greeted with a national salute from the batteries of American artillery on shore, and from the American and other national warships in the harbor. "Long may it wave o'er a land of the free and a home of the brave," is the wish of every American.

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 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. In exceptional years her production of sugar has passed the one million tons mark.

The best and cane product both considered.

The beet and cane product both considered, Cuba is surpassed by but one country, Ger-many, with one and one-half million tons, as a sugar producer, and is equaled by but one

a sigar producer, and is equated 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 eigars in addition to heavy exports of baled tobacco of less valuable va-

The shipping of nine Cuban ports, which includes Havana, for the year 1894 amounted to 3,538,539 tons, carried by 3,184 vessels. The above three paragraphs give a general idéa of industrial Cuba of the past; they can scarcely be classed as even pro-

phetic 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 New York. Of this total area less than 10 per cent, has ever been under cultivation; for per cent, is classed as forest land, and large quantities of the remainder is virgin soil awaiting development by a proor sive people under a progressive go nment. When such a people under such a government have turned this unclaimed area into productive territory we shall have the Cuba of the future.

than for the other islands. In Cuba it has ment of the island cannot be doubted been the series of rebellions and insurrec-tions that have caused the decline of the industry. During the periods of compara-tive peace the industry has prospered, and the reason may be found in the fact that the

Cuban planters have gone about the produc-tion of sugar on a large scale, and equipped with the most modern machinery.

While sugar is the staple crop of first im-portance in Cuba tobacco has an important place in the island's industries, and is even

terests, though the tobacco fields may be found in all sections of the island, and the crop is exported from every port from Havana to Santiago.

vana to Santiago.

The average size of the Cuban tobaccoplantations, or vegas, as they are called, is only about 33 acres, and the average annual production from a farm or vega of this size is something like 9,000 pounds of tobacco of varying qualities. Of this amount, however, there will seldom be more than from 450 to 500 pounds of the finest quality from which the higher priced cigars are made: 1.800 the higher priced cigars are made; 1,800 pounds of the second quality, and so on down to the cheapest grade, which is, of course, the greatest in quantity.

In the wars of Cuba the tobacco interests of the western portion of the island, in which is grown the better qualities and the greatest quantities, have been but little affected until the last one. During the years of 1896-97, however, these interests, like the sugar interests of Matanzas, suffered heav-ily from the conflicts waged over the tobacco-territory, and the planters are but now fully,

territory, and the planters are but now fully recovering from the effects of the devastation which the revolution left in its path. Among other agricultural products which the island is capable of producing, and from which much may be expected in the future, are coffees and fruits. The former is especially adapted to the mountain-sides and hill-lands of the eastern portion. There was a time when a considerable quantity of coffee was exported from the island, but the political conditions rendered its cultivation litical conditions rendered its cultivation unprofitable, as there was always an uncertainty of getting the crop to market. In point of quality Cuba can produce as good coffee as is grown anywhere in the world, and there is but little doubt that it will soon

become a leading industry.

Though the present value of the fruit crop of Cuba has greatly diminished in comparison with what it was a few years ago it is still of considerable importance, and may be expected to assume even greater importance in the industrial development of the island under the new regime. In the eastern end of the island there are now a large number of beautiful banana plantations high up the mountains that supply to the American mar-kets the best of this class of fruit that is sold in this country. Oranges and pineapples of unusual size and flavor are also grown throughout the island.

throughout the island.

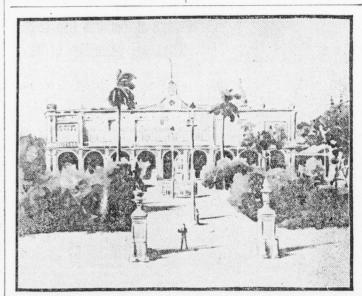
But Cuba possesses more than agricultural wealth. Her forests supply mahogany, logwood and fustic in some quantities, though the supply is limited, and a great source of wealth is in her, as yet, almost undeveloped. But Cuba possesses more than agricultural wealth. Her forests supply mahogany, logwood and fustic in some quantities, though the supply is limited, and a great source of 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

With such resources to draw upon Cuba, under a progressive and enlightened government that will encourage rather than antagonize development, should soon take a leading place among the smaller commercial nations of the world

A Year of Cuban Prosperity.

The year 1892 was the most prosperous in Cuban history for almost half a century. During that year the value of the island's exmore 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.

s is the white house of Cuba. In it have resided a long list of ors, and for nearly four years it has been the official home of Gen. When he surrenders the refins of government into the hand of I he will also step out of this famous official residence and turn it nily of the first president of the Cuban republic. The palace is a sug of masonry thoroughly in keeping with the Spanish tendency building of masonry thoroughly in keeping with the Spanish tendency extravagance, and will make an elaborate residence for Cuba's executives.