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CUBANS FOR ANNEXATION SUGAR PLANTERS EXPECTED TO ORGANIZE TO-DAY.

Washington, July 14.—To-morrow, July 15, is the day set for important political developments in Cuba. That is, the developments will be important if the private advices and semi-official statements received in Washington are correct. The proposition is that the Sugar Planters' Association shall be reorganized on the basis of an annexation propaganda.

The news as received here is that a meeting of the sugar planters is to be held on the 15th for the purpose of reorganization, and the plans have been modified, no word of it has been received in Washington. It is possible, however, that at the first meeting the planters may not go quite so far as has been intended. Local sentiment in Cuba may have something to do with their course.

It is denied that this proposed action has any connection with the scheme of Senator Elkins and those who were working with him in the sinister purpose of forcing the early annexation of Cuba, by plunging the island into industrial distress, from which no outlet can be seen except by becoming a part of the United States. Yet it is admitted to be true that some of the planters who still have credit and who think they could survive a period of agricultural ruin are active in the present plans. The planters having neither credit nor money from the large majority, and with them it is simply a final effort to save themselves. Satisfied that they can gain no concessions for their sugar in the markets of the United States, they face ruin in whatever direction they turn, and they feel that they can take the chance of openly advocating annexation without making their condition worse. They see the more reason for this since the Havana based on the unfavorable opinion of the proposed government loan of \$4,000,000 to aid the sugar industry, and since the Cuban Congress also has shown a disposition not to accept the plan as formulated by President Palma and his Cabinet.

Former military officials in Cuba who are now in Washington say there is nothing surprising in this last move of the planters. Since the power of Spain was ended the majority of them have favored annexation, and a few have supported it openly. It is all in their interest to secure a free market for cane sugar, and they know that annexation under any form would give this assurance. The planters' association at times has been charged with being merely an annexation annex. It has not shown much coherence, and its influence has not been great. One of the planters who is in the movement in a recent letter says that the association in the first place to educate the ignorant classes on the advantages of annexation, and with that in view to elect a committee, composed of new elements. That is, it is proposed to put new blood in the Sugar Planters' Association, and to elect a committee, composed of new government. Their explanation is that they merely propose that the Cuban people shall recognize actual economic conditions and make sure of their own future.

General James H. Wilson, when he was in command of Matanzas and Santa Clara provinces, told the Senate committee that nobody except the planters then wanted Cuba annexed to the United States. At that time there were not openly and actively supporting their own views, but rather relied on the American authorities to secure the ends they sought. Now that Cuba is an independent country, they will have to be allowed to support their own views. They are now in a position to do so. They are already in bearing fruit, and that some of the Senators who were in the conspiracy which prevented action on the President's recommendations to the late Congress, admit that Cuban reciprocity will be accomplished in November or December. With reciprocity a fact, the military officials who have been in Cuba think that the annexation movement of the planters will have much of its force.

BRAGG AND THE CUBANS.

GENERAL DOES NOT REMEMBER WRITING DISPARAGING COMMENTS ON ISLANDERS. (BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.) Havana, July 14.—General Bragg said to The Tribune correspondent to-day relative to alleged derogatory remarks by him about the Cubans: "I have no recollection of writing such remarks, and the publication is entirely unwarranted. However, what I write to my wife I consider as private, and no one's business but my own."

NO COMPLAINT FROM QUESADA. GENERAL BRAGG'S ALLEGED REMARKS NOT YET BROUGHT TO THE NOTICE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

Washington, July 14.—The criticism of the Cuban people ascribed in a publication this morning to General Bragg, United States Consul General at Havana, has not been officially brought to the attention of the State Department, and until it is there will be no action in the case. Señor Quesada, the Cuban Minister, spent the day in one of the suburban resorts, and consequently did not call at the department. It will be for him, if any one, to make complaint. Then the natural course will be to call upon General Bragg for an explanation, and if he admits the authenticity of the quotation, and the Cuban Government so desires, he must be relieved.

A dispatch from Fond du Lac, Wis., said that in a letter to his wife General E. S. Bragg, consul general at Havana, says he prefers the social life of Mexico to that of Cuba. He does not think the outlook for the Cuban Republic is promising. "Such a man," I have said, "is a man who is out of a play's ball as to try to make something out of these people," the general is reported to have written.

W. S. DEVEREY—ORATOR.

THRILLS THROUGH WITH SPEECH AND FREE REFRESHMENTS.

OFFERS TO "SPEEL" WITH "GALS" ON A THREE CENT PIECE—PUMP MOVED DOWN EIGHTH-AVE.

The William S. Devey Association moved into its new headquarters at No. 254 Eighth-ave. last night with an accompaniment of fireworks, music, speeches and cheers. The big chief himself made a speech that was a gem. Early in the evening, long before Devey appeared on the scene, crowds began to congregate around the Pump, at Twenty-eighth-st. and Eighth-ave. By 8:30 o'clock the crowd was so dense that it would have taken a flying wedge to pass the Pump on the sidewalk and streetcars and vehicles had difficulty in moving up and down the avenue. Rockets, Roman candles, flower pots, mines and other pyrotechnics, including hundreds of red lights, were displayed along Eighth-ave. From the Pump to the new headquarters near Twenty-third-st.

"What's going on here?" asked a stranger of Devey when he arrived. "We're just fram'g up a parade, stranger," was the reply. "Drop into the line an' come along."

A roar went up from the crowd when the big chief appeared at the corner. "Three cheers for the new leader of the IXth District!" some one shouted, and the response was enough to wake the dead.

Then Devey stood near the curb and received the congratulations of his friends. "THIS IS A 'LIGHTENED COMMUNITY."

"Yes, I'm goin' to make a speech to-night, but I don't know any reason why I should continue to make 'em. This is a 'lightened community, an' the people read the newspapers, an' politics is hereditary, anyhow. Speechmakin' don't convert anybody. This is a hot day, but it'll begin to get hot right along in this neighborhood. I'm goin' to begin to make things a little warm myself for certain people."

After delivering himself in this manner Devey made the rounds of the four saloons surrounding the Pump, and gave orders to the proprietors that no money was to be taken in over the counter, and that all drinks were to be free. "Give the boys all they kin hold," was his order. The saloons did an unprecedented business.

Then the chief gave orders to fall into line and the parade was begun. The street was blocked on both sides and in the middle. Fully two thousand men, women and children followed the band, which could scarcely be heard above the din. The new headquarters was inadequate to accommodate even a small part of the crowd that clamored for admission. About a hundred men managed to get inside, and they were packed like sardines. Devey waited until the room, hall and stairs were jammed before he attempted to enter. His clothes were almost torn from his back, but he finally landed, winded and perspiring, behind the speakers' table, and when quiet was restored, and orders were given to silence the band, which persisted in making as much noise as possible, Devey doffed his straw hat and addressed his followers.

GREAT CHEERS FOR BIG CHIEF.

"Three cheers for Devey! Three cheers for the new leader!" half a dozen men shouted the minute Devey opened his mouth. Every man tried to crack his voice.

"Gimme a chance to speak," said Devey. "The Four Corners Club, which you all know, has moved from Twenty-eighth-st. an' Eighth-ave, an' has taken their pump with them to make their headquarters here in this campaign."

A large floral pump, an exact reproduction of Devey's famous pump, was brought forth at that point and placed on the table amid another outburst of cheers. Devey continued: "We've come here to-night to open our new headquarters, an' to follow the tradition here to go into this 'cot's' belongin' to Tammany Hall, but anti-Crocker. Now, we've got Mr. Goodwin in this contest, a gentleman you all know, an' you know what he has done for the people of this district. He has led many's the man here a chase which is known as the 'Tom Collins' chase from pillar to post, an' he has never done nothin' for nobody, only bruk his own pockets for their daily bread. It seems to be hereditary."

"We've got another gentleman, John C. Sheehan, who is no doubt a pretty good man, but which he's got a young man, an' grand an' what has he done for the young men of the district? You see them standin' aroun' the street corners idle for work. Now, as I say, he has been six months in power, an' he has done nothin' to be placed on the highways an' subways, an' he has give work to nothin' but Eyetalyans. He has got a young man here by the name of Devey, an' you know what he has done for the young man, as you can find, an' he oughter come down with us an' come on to victory. Who's the answer to his bid, an' who's the answer to his Second-ave. contract? an' this bridge contract, did he hire anybody in the district? No! OPOSED TO HEEL ON UNDER DOG."

"Now, I am here to-night as an amateur politician, and I am out for the young men an' the under dog. I want to lick the feller who tries to put his heel down an' kick the under dog. You young men are fightin' for me, an' I am fightin' for you, see? We don't want no college bred gentleman to lead this district. We want some bright young man with a common school education."

"When I was leavin' home this mornin' I says to an' that I was goin' to have a lot of fun to-night. She says, 'You ain't goin' to do nothin' of the kind.' I says, 'Len, me a Two Spot.' She says, 'You're not much of a Sport.' I says, 'The hell you says, 'Go 'way back an' sit down; you're a Joke.'"

This sally was greeted with howls of delight by the perspiring and excited audience. "Now, you see, I'm followin' the tradition on a gal, get out an' win. I'll come down here occasionally with a band of music, an' I'll give all the gal's attention to me, an' I'll be the piece. When I was a boy in a pea jacket and tight pants, there wasn't anybody could beat me givin' a twist. I want all you men here, irrespective of party, to bring your wives and families to our outing. I'll let you know in time. We'll have a outing for the small boys, too."

see Timothy P. Sullivan, from the East Side, he's comin' over here to spend money-a-beating me at the primaries. Well, he's Mr. Sullivan, of the East Side, an' I'm Mr. Devey, of the West Side. We'll take all the money he sends over. I love Sullivan as a brother, but his politics is on the East Side, and we kin take care of the West Side. Now, boys, there's a lot of soft stuff downstairs. Pity, in an' wet your whistles. "I immediately there was a scramble for the street, where four kegs of beer were on tap. The kegs were placed on a platform, and everybody helped himself. In the saloon below the clubroom, where drinks were had at Mr. Devey's expense, there was almost a riot. The celebration lasted well into the night before the crowd broke up and went home. Devey missed his 10:14 o'clock train for Park Row.

"I am glad to see that Senator Platt has begun to get a few bets down on the races," he remarked to the newspaper men. "It must be a relief an' a rest to be able to enjoy life, instead of settin' aroun' an' havin' his arm talked off." The Goodwin-Smith men took a turn at political chatting yesterday, and last night all of them referred to ex-Chief Devey as "Gimme Half Bill." It will be remembered that Mr. Devey sent an emissary to the Goodwin men demanding that they withdraw from the general committee. They got nothing.



THE CAMPANILE, OR BELL TOWER, OF ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL, IN VENICE. Which collapsed yesterday into a heap of ruins.

THE CAMPANILE FALLS. PRESIDENT AND TRUSTS.

HISTORIC BELL TOWER OF ST. MARK'S, VENICE, A HEAP OF RUINS.

ITS COLLAPSE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY SEISMIC DISTURBANCES.

Venice, July 14.—The Campanile (bell tower) of St. Mark's Church, 98 metres high, collapsed at 10:40 o'clock this morning, and fell with a great crash into the Piazza. The Campanile, which was entirely detached from the cathedral, collapsed where it stood, and is now a heap of ruins. The Cathedral and Palace of the Doges are quite safe, but a corner of the royal palace was damaged. Repairs on the Campanile were to have begun to-day. It is feared there was some loss of life. The ruins are surrounded by a cordon of troops. The ruins are piled up to a height of one hundred feet, and the Piazza di San Marco and the adjoining squares are covered with debris and dust. Some damage was done to the Sansovino Loggetta, or vestibule, on the east side of the Campanile.

The first intimation of danger was the sudden appearance yesterday of a longitudinal crack in the corner of the wall facing the clock tower, and the breaking of two windows. A concert which had been arranged to occur on the Piazza yesterday evening was stopped by order of the Prefect, with the object of preventing a concourse of people.

Closer investigation shows that the Campanile in falling carried away the Sansovino Loggetta and the library of the royal palace. Fortunately, preliminary signs of the collapse allowed a partial clearance of the Piazza, and consequently there were no fatalities, but a few persons were injured. The disaster caused an immense sensation.

A little before the collapse a noise of falling stones within the bell tower warned the shopkeepers, workmen and tourists of the impending disaster, and the latter fled for their lives, crying, "The Campanile is falling!" When the disaster was comprehended Venetians were seen in the streets bemoaning the destruction of one of the oldest of art treasures in the kingdom. Four of Sansovino's statues of Venetian nobles were demolished in the Sansovino Loggetta, while a beautiful example of a Paul Veronese painting was destroyed in the palace. The wing of an angel from the top of the bell tower was thrown down to the front door of the cathedral, smashing the Bando column, which was hurled thirty-five feet, just escaping the column supporting the south angle of the cathedral, and thus averting a more serious disaster.

The fall of the tower produced a thick red dust, which spread like a hanging cloud over the city. This, with the rumbling, volcanic noise, startled the inhabitants of the most remote suburbs, thousands of soldiers and police aided in allaying the panic.

The Deputies of Venice have telegraphed to the government at Rome for authorization to estimate a lottery for the purpose of raising funds to rebuild the bell tower.

The Municipal Council has decided to open a preliminary fund of 500,000 lire (about \$100,000) for the rebuilding of the Campanile and the Sansovino Loggetta. A public subscription will also be opened for the same purpose.

Queen Margherita and Count von Bielow, the German Imperial ambassador, have telegraphed expressions of regret at the ruin of the tower to the Municipal Council.

Professor Belar, head of the seismic observatory at Ljubach, Austria, is of the opinion that the earthquake in Salonica, European Turkey, completed the destruction of the Campanile of St. Mark's in Venice, which had shown the effects of seismic disturbances of earth and sea in Northern Italy.

Professor Belar says he noticed a marked inclination of the Campanile at Easter. It is suggested that the constant dredging at the entrance to the Grand Canal and at the island of Giudecca, in order to permit the entrance of larger ships, caused the earth to slip, and that the fall of the Campanile may be followed by other collapses.

The Campanile of St. Mark's stood opposite the Cathedral of St. Mark's for many centuries. It was founded as far back as 811, and was completed in 1351. It was about 225 feet high, and like most Italian Campanile, it was very simple in design. It was positively bare in comparison with the famous Campanile at Florence. Against its base there was a building of modest dimensions, which, from an artistic point of view, could well have been spared, but it was for a long time put to practical use by the Nobil and by the Guards of the Council of the Republic, the first Empire, the homecoming of Apollo, Mercury and Pallas on the tower, and the doors were of bronze. An inclined plane took the place of a staircase in the interior, until the top was nearly reached, when the traveller gained the platform at a few steps. The laboring classes, mounted to the top of the tower to gaze upon one of the fairest views in Europe.

No person was permitted to enter alone, but a traveller could get any person to go up with him, the tower being always open. At the top a watchman, with a telescope, was on the lookout for fires. The view embraced the city of Venice, the lagoon, a part of the Adriatic and the Alps. In her book, "The Queen of the Adriatic," Clara Erskine Clement says: "From the tower, in the great days of the Venetian Republic, the first Empire, the homecoming of war vessels was seen and signalled. In 1513 there hung, half way up the tower, a wooden cage, in which prisoners were kept until they starved to death. In the olden days there were four bells sounded for different purposes: La marangola was sounded at dawn to call the laboring classes; la sestamezzana opened the official bureau; la trottolella called the council to duty, and the bell del maleficio tolled out the requiem for those who were to be put to death. A few bell later was brought from Candia, and was tolled only on Ascension Day."

Stony Pt. State Park Dedication, July 15th. Go via Hudson River Day Line Shore to West Point; there connect with West Shore R. R. for Stony Pt. Fire and Grand parade. Speech by Governor of N. Y. Advt.

ONLY 20 HOURS TO CHICAGO. The new "20th Century Limited" of the New York Central and Hudson River R.R. leaves New York and Brooklyn every day, dining car; buffet smoking car. Advt.

HICKS-BEACH RESIGNS.

FIRST BREAK IN THE CABINET UNDER MR. BALFOUR.

SPEECHES AT A CONFERENCE AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE—TRIBUTES TO NEW PREMIER.

London, July 14.—Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to-day resigned as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Perhaps never has a change of Premiership been effected with so little dislocation to business, either public or private, as accompanied the transfer of the seals of office from Lord Salisbury to Mr. Balfour. The occurrence had no effect whatever on the Stock Exchange. The only other change in the Cabinet thus far announced is the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, though others are foreshadowed. Mr. Balfour, in addressing the first meeting of his followers at the Foreign Office this afternoon, informed them that he could not count on the continued assistance of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, but could count on the latter's good wishes. The public showed little interest in the party meeting, which was summoned for noon, and the members of Parliament gathered in Downing-st. almost unnoticed. The new Premier, when he entered the conference room of the Foreign Office accompanied by the Duke of Devonshire, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Lord Londonderry and others, was warmly welcomed, all present standing and loudly cheering him. When Mr. Balfour rose to address the meeting all again stood up and cheered the new chief. As soon as quiet was restored Mr. Balfour referred to the loss of the services of the leader who for nearly fifty years had been engaged in active political life. No one, he said, would grudge him his well earned repose, though his loss was irreparable.

MR. BALFOUR'S SPEECH.

The Premier proceeded as follows:

I do not flatter myself that the gap he has left can be filled. But the place he has left me to do my best to take that position that I have asked you to meet me to-day. I have accepted a great task and a heavy responsibility, certainly from no overweening belief in my own capacity, but because I am sure, or, at least, have every reason to believe, that in attempting to carry on this work I will have the most important qualifications for the task can have, namely, the regard for and confidence in those with whom he works. I have not had the opportunity before of consulting you, but I have, of course, consulted those with whom I have been working in the Cabinet these many years, and if the kindness you are prepared to extend to me is at all equal to the kindness they have extended to me, then, indeed, the terrors or difficulties I ought, perhaps, to say, of the task before me are greatly mitigated. I cannot now promise myself that I shall have the continued assistance of all my colleagues. One of the most important of them, with whom I have been associated all my political life, and who has occupied and deserves to occupy the highest post in the House of Commons and state, has told me that I cannot count on his further assistance. I mean the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But, though I grieve to say I cannot count with any assurance on his further assistance, I have no doubt that his good wishes in the labors that are before us.

At this juncture Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, amid applause, signified his assent by crying heartily, "Hear! Hear!" Mr. Balfour continued:

For myself I have nothing to say. To all the members of all events to the members of the House of Commons who are listening to me—I have no secrets and no surprises. You have known me so well and so long that even were I disposed to dwell on this thing there is nothing I could say which could or ought to alter the judgment already long ago formed. But if I have nothing of a personal nature to say at the present time, neither have I any pronouncement to make on the subject of the policy of the party on the great change which we have met here to deplore. But this is not the occasion on which either to discuss them or even think of them. As for the question of policy, we are precisely the same as we were when the Unionist party remains now what it has always been. We have lost the services of a brilliant advocate of our cause. We have lost a man around whom the sentiments and emotions of the party have for many years crystallized. Nevertheless, I feel we would do wrong to despair, do wrong to have even the faintest misgiving in regard to the future of the cause, because there must be consequent on the great change which we have met here to deplore. But this is not the occasion on which either to discuss them or even think of them. As for the question of policy, we are precisely the same as we were when the Unionist party remains now what it has always been. We have lost the services of a brilliant advocate of our cause. We have lost a man around whom the sentiments and emotions of the party have for many years crystallized. Nevertheless, I feel we would do wrong to despair, do wrong to have even the faintest misgiving in regard to the future of the cause, because there must be consequent on the great change which we have met here to deplore. But this is not the occasion on which either to discuss them or even think of them. 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