

**THE ADVERTISER.**

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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16, 1907.

**The Fate of Cuba.**

N. O. States.  
It is apparent from the official correspondence which has been submitted to Congress relating the intervention by this government in Cuba and the establishment of the existing provisional rule in the island, that the fate of the Cuban republic is hanging by an exceedingly slender thread. Secretary Taft shows that when this government intervened President Palma was preparing to flee the island, and in the chaotic conditions that would have been caused by his flight it would have been possible for the insurrectionists to have put the torch to property and crops worth more than \$70,000,000 belonging to American and foreign investors.

Secretary Taft is convinced that this was the programme of the revolutionists when they rose against Palma, and he has good reasons for believing that if they had an opportunity they would be eager now to embark upon the same kind of enterprise. Therefore he has not much hope that the Cubans will settle down to a life of law and order, nor does he think that they are capable of honest self-government of any kind, but nevertheless they are to be given a chance to become reasonable, and if after a fair trial their government falls to pieces, the responsibility for the extinguishment of the Cuban republic will rest with the Cubans themselves, and the United States can not then be accused of an unworthy greed to pull down the little island state in order to add it to our territorial possessions.

In this connection it is only fair to say that those who know the Cubans believe they will again plunge into disorder the moment they are left to their own devices, hence the Americans having large property interests in the island hope and trust that the present provisional government by the United States will be maintained for a long time, because they do not hesitate to say that the Cubans are not fit to govern themselves or to become American citizens.

This may be the correct view of the situation in Cuba. If so, it will be generally agreed that it would be advisable that the provisional government established by the United States should remain in control of the island for years than that we should annex Cuba, because the instant the island is annexed the demand will be made to give the horde of incompetents all the rights of American citizenship. As their votes would be of value to political parties this demand would be difficult to resist, yet it is easy to perceive that the results would not be for the good of the country which already has hundreds of thousands of undigested citizens on its hands.

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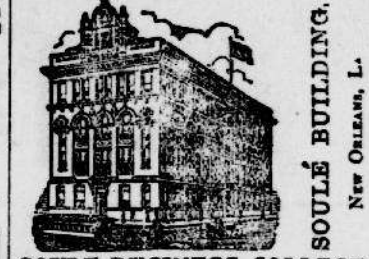
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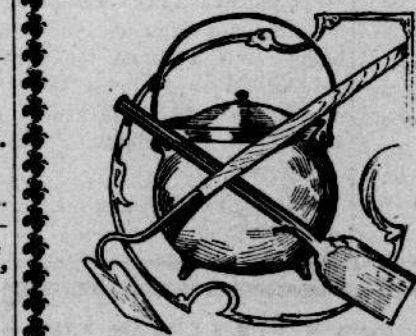
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