

nation of Gen. Reyes from Diaz's cabinet.

Gen. Reyes had been governor of Nuevo Leon, and President Diaz, who is very old, was understood to have looked to him as his own successor in the presidency. Pursuant to that purpose, as was supposed, he called him into his cabinet as secretary of war and marine. But when the president came recently to contemplate a trip to Europe, it was semiofficially announced that in the exercise of his right to fill the presidential vacancy which his leaving the country would create, he would name another member of his cabinet, Senor Limantour, the secretary of the treasury, instead of Gen. Reyes. This announcement sent a thrill throughout the republic, for Reyes, though a military man, is looked upon as representing the democratic, in contradistinction to the plutocratic, tendencies which in Mexico as elsewhere over the civilized world are coming into collision; whereas Limantour is a "scientific," which means that he stands for those "scientific" theories of political economy that may be summed up in the one English word, "exploitation." He represents, in other terms, the new monopolizing trend of the financial, commercial and professional elements of Mexican business life.

An attack upon Limantour was forthwith made by the opposing elements. The animus of this attack was the plutocratic exploitation policies that Limantour stands for. But the specific objection to his being made temporary substitute president by Diaz's appointment was the point that he is not a native-born citizen, his parents having been foreigners temporarily resident in Mexico at the time of his birth. Some success crowned the efforts of the opposition, for it was soon semiofficially announced that President Diaz had reconsidered his intention to visit Europe during his term of office. This announcement implied, of course, the abandonment of his plan of appointing Limantour as his substitute and was hailed by the opposition as a triumph over Limantour. But the victory was evidently not complete. Reyes soon afterward resigned from the cabinet, his resignation was at once accepted, and Gen. Francisco H. Mena has been appointed in his place.

Two political parties have thus

been evolved in Mexican politics, led respectively by Reyes and Limantour, and a quiet succession to President Diaz, for which he has planned and financiers have hoped, is now quite improbable. The circumstances make it almost certain that a bitter contest will ensue when Diaz dies or retires; and it is within the probabilities that this contest cannot be settled with ballots alone.

It will surprise most American people to learn that their exploitation of Porto Rico, as a dependent colony of the United States, is not regarded with satisfaction by representative Porto Ricans. Yet this seems to be the fact. Despite rose-colored official and newspaper dispatches, all indicating that the American administration in Porto Rico has been wonderfully successful, reports from other sources go far to show that it promises to prove a humiliating failure.

One of these reports comes through Erving Winslow, of Boston, secretary of the Anti-Imperialist league, who makes the following presentation through the columns of the Boston Post:

The last issue of the Porto Rico Herald contains a protest of the executive committee of the American Federal party, reinforced by editorial statements, of the fraudulent and violent conduct of the last election, supported by a large number of detailed incidents. The accusation is distinctly made that under Governor Hunt and "under the flag of the United States a despotism a thousand times more odious than that of Spain in Cuba, that of England in Ireland, that of Russia in Poland and that of Turkey in Armenia" has been set up.

The committee of the American Federal party makes this declaration:

The American Federal party, recording in this document its most energetic protest against the numberless outrages, violence and illegalities committed with impunity in the present election without the least opposition from the government, does so because it wishes it to be understood every time and by everybody that it does not submit to that mockery and robbery, and especially against the insinuations of the American press, which, when informed of the riots and disorders which reigned supreme during two months and a half, instead of investigating the true cause of the phenomenon, pointed out such facts as proof that we are not qualified for the exercise of civil and political rights.

Nevertheless the committee goes on to state:

During the last 20 years of Spanish rule in Porto Rico repeated proofs of our competence were given in the solution of the most complicated social and political problems to such an extent that it brought forth from the lips of the learned ministry of the crown that beautiful expression that

"there never was danger in Porto Rico making any reforms."

The committee adds that—

while heretofore such important events could have passed without disorder and riot, the election period of 1902 has carried to the homes of peaceful citizens terror, hate and death, therefore the American Federal party, in the name of honest Porto Ricans who feel and think as Porto Ricans, highly valuing their good name, also protest once and a thousand times against those gratuitous statements and respectfully invite the honest newspapers of the United States to study the causes and details of the phenomenon which has attracted their attention and then state honestly if the responsibility of these deeds belongs to the people, or whether it lies with the leaders of the movement and to the officials who through laxity and partiality have consented and encouraged it.

An impressive confirmation of these quotations which Mr. Winslow makes from the Porto Rico Herald, was furnished at Cornell university on the 27th. It came in the form of a college oration by Martin Travesco, of San Juan, Porto Rico, a nephew of the chief justice of Porto Rico and a senior in the Cornell law school. This young man, who is described as one of the brightest students in the senior law class, was recently asked by his instructors in oratory to write an original speech on some subject in which he was interested, to be delivered before the class. Complying, he chose for his subject "The American Administration of Affairs in Porto Rico," and he is reported to have scored Gov. Hunt and his party severely. He said the reports which come to this country telling of a wise, just and economical administration of affairs in Porto Rico are utterly false, and that "the island is prostrated because of the baneful effects of a policy which is more tyrannical than any Spain ever dared impose." He declared that Gov. Hunt "lives in a luxurious palace, with no regard for the suffering of the people, while unscrupulous politicians rule the land;" and that "the courts are corrupted, and crimes committed by members of the governmental party go unpunished." Following the same general line of criticism he continued:

It is now over four years since the blowing up of the Maine in Havana harbor, which forced Spain to abandon her new world possessions, and soon the red and yellow flag was lowered, and in its place was hoisted the flag of liberty, "The Star Spangled Banner." It was a great day for Porto Rico. The American soldiers were cheered from end to end of the island, for we thought the days of tyranny were over and that liberty for the first time was to be enjoyed in our island. We had read and heard of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and other immortal Ameri-

cans, and had learned to love and admire them. We knew that in this nation all men are free and equal, and we had read the American constitution, that sublime document, and therefore we hoped that the blessings of liberty would be extended to us. Have our hopes been realized? Nay, they have been hopelessly blasted. The supreme court has held that Porto Rico is not a part of the United States, that her citizens are not citizens of the United States, and that therefore the American constitution, which we had learned to love and revere, does not protect our island. Instead of autonomy, which had been conceded to us by Spain, we now have a government which gives the governor more despotic powers than any Spanish military governor ever had, and he exercises them to the detriment of the people. In order that his will may be done and that his power may be absolute Governor Hunt supports the party of the minority, composed of American adventurers and native renegades, who have no regard for the welfare of the country and are ready to applaud as long as they enjoy official protection. The election of November last was the greatest political crime of the century. All means were used from fraud to murder to give the victory to the governmental party, which won, although far in the minority. It fills my heart with anger and indignation when I think of the number of crimes which have been committed to carry such elections. But the murderers will remain unpunished because the ministers in the temple of justice are politicians. We have gone back to those dark days of the Spanish administration of 1887, when our mothers and sisters were in constant fear that their sons and brothers might be arrested by the Spanish soldiers to be thrown into a dungeon and suffer torture for the crime of being patriots. To-day under the present government our mothers and sisters have the same fear that they may be brought back murdered because they do not belong to the party protected by the government. Life for honest people is becoming impossible in Porto Rico, because they see that the government protects the criminal and punishes the law-abiding citizen. The government there has tainted the flag with dishonor. I am sure that if the true facts were known the honest-hearted Americans would be filled with indignation. But only the official reports reach American ears, and in them Porto Rico is represented as a happy and prosperous country. These reports are basely false. Porto Rico is going through a great crisis; the island is prostrated. I make this appeal to you as true American citizens, because I believe

that my country is entitled to have a government founded upon those principles that have made this nation the greatest, the freest and the noblest among the nations of the world, and because I believe we are at least entitled as civilized and Christian people to have our national rights guaranteed by the government to which we owe our allegiance. In heaven's name we want instead of profligacy, honesty; instead of extravagance, economy; instead of rioting, peace.

To northwestern Africa is a long way from Porto Rico, but news of the march of empire carries us there, for out of an insurrection in Morocco may not improbably arise another imperial question in world politics.

Morocco is an absolute despotism, ruled by a sultan who is unrestrained by any laws, civil or religious. He is chief of the state and head of the religion, which is Mohammedan. The reigning sultan now is Mulai-Abd-el-Aziz, who was born in 1878, and on the death of his father, Mulai-Hasan, succeeded to the sultanate by proclamation of June 7, 1894, having then been elected from the eligible family. He is the fifteenth of his dynasty and the thirty-sixth in lineal descent from Ali, uncle and son-in-law of Mahomet, the Prophet. His father having left other sons, they have plotted against him since the beginning of his reign; and in doing this they have had much popular support because the sultan has not only encouraged progressive ideas, introducing telephones, etc., and building railroads, but in that connection has abandoned Morocco's traditional policy of isolation and admitted French and British embassies, and immigrants, a courtesy of which Great Britain and France have taken advantage to secure franchise rights and set up claims to "spheres of influence" in the "hinterland" or unsettled parts of the country.

The plotting against the sultan has now culminated in a stupendous rebellion. On the 26th the London Times reported the situation at Fez, the Morocco capital, as serious, a pretender to the sultanate having secured followers in numbers too great for the government troops to cope with, and having some days earlier utterly routed the government army in a battle at Taza. The rebels were reported soon after as marching upon Fez, and on the 30th dispatches by way of London told of the investment

of that city. The sultan, with the few troops left him after the disaster at Taza and subsequent desertions, had barricaded himself in the royal palace and was preparing for a desperate resistance. According to dispatches of the 30th the rebels had cut off the aqueduct which supplies Fez with water and it was considered probable that the city would have to capitulate within three days.

As France and Great Britain claim interests in the Morocco country, and the rebellion against the sultan offers a conventional pretext for their intervention to "restore peace and protect foreign rights," Spain, lying, as she does across the Straits of Gibraltar from Morocco, manifests great concern lest this pretext may be utilized to secure a foothold which would be a perpetual menace to her. Reason for this concern was found in the departure on the 29th of four British war ships from Malta to Gibraltar, in connection, as it was believed, with the Morocco situation. Steps to guard against prejudicial results from intervention were taken by the Spanish government, which instructed its ambassadors in London and Paris to ascertain the views on the Morocco situation of the British and French governments. Reassuring replies were announced at Madrid on the 30th, it being stated that Great Britain and France had notified Spain that they had no intention of taking any advantage of the situation in Morocco, and that they desired the maintenance of the status quo even in the event of the sultan's being dethroned and his place taken by the pretender.

Japan is facing a ministerial crisis over a question of taxation, the house of representatives having been dissolved on the 28th by imperial order, and elections fixed for February. The dissolution was brought about by the opposition of party leaders to ministerial plans for increasing the public revenues, which are deficient. Those plans comprehended an increase in the land tax. To that the opposition leaders objected, and no compromise was possible.

The land tax of Japan is not what is known in English speaking countries as the "single tax," as advocated by Henry George, nor does it bear any essential resemblance to it. On the contrary, it is an awkwardly devised tax, falling chiefly on agricultural production. It was estab-