

EXTRA SESSION TO BE HELD

Congress Will Be Asked to Consider Relations with Cuba.

CUBANS' ATTITUDE IS FIRM

Will Not Insert Clause in Their Constitution—Insist the Cuban Must Replace the American Flag.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The President will have his way about an extra session of the Fifty-seventh Congress. The reasons that have appeared to him sufficient to justify him in calling it are beginning to be understood by members of the Senate and the House who have rather impatiently resisted the tendency toward such a session, and with some of the information that the President has had, and which Congress has not obtained, the emergency is made to appear to be greater than was generally supposed. On some Monday after the inauguration, from March 18 to April 1, or possibly later, the new Congress will be asked to consider the Cuban situation and share with the President the responsibility of marking out a course of action suggested by the Cuban effort to acquire absolute independence.

The Administration has been impressed with the almost universal desire in Cuba to secure, as the result of the Constitutional Convention, the right to self-government and to fly the Cuban flag and to have it respected as the symbol of a responsible and capable Government. The attempts made through Americans in Cuba, to induce the convention to accept the advice of the Administration have been met by a determined, but not ugly, refusal to accord to the United States the right to maintain naval stations and to dictate too broadly the policy of the Cuban Government when established.

The information of the Government agrees generally with the statements made concerning the situation in Cuba as set forth in a letter printed in *The Evening Star* here to-night, and written by Charles M. Pepper, one of the best-informed American correspondents who have visited the island, as he has done repeatedly, from a period before the war. He says that the convention has heard the advice given by Americans, but will not incorporate in the Constitution a definition of the relations to exist between Cuba and the United States. He asserts that they will "stand by it with more force and nerve than seems to be understood in the United States." He adds that he makes this statement for the benefit of American public men and others who still assert that the flag will never come down from Morro Castle. "I think," writes Mr. Pepper, "that the American flag will come down from Morro and the Cuban flag go up for a while." Cuba's population of a million and a half is practically a unit for the Cuban flag, and only about a fifth of the population, he assumes, favors the American keep-the-flag-up policy.

The same writer holds the President's view that delay will not satisfy the people of Cuba. There are indications that persistence in such a policy would develop a movement that would be irresistible and compel the sending back of troops in large numbers to maintain a strong military Government. That the radical Cubans are not hostile to the United States or opposed to all the suggestions made by the War Department is instanced in the case of Gen. Aleman, who is described as an ultra-radical. He formulated propositions, Mr. Pepper writes, looking to close relations between the two Governments for the development of Cuba and the satisfaction of the United States that Cuba is able to regulate its international affairs without provoking trouble for itself and the United States. His formula is described as Aleman's way of phrasing the Monroe doctrine.

It has been this information, and more of the same kind, representing the Cubans as averse to ceding naval stations or making commercial treaties too favorable to the United States and the unconcealed impatience to be under their own flag, that has led the President to insist that Congress shall share with him the task of deciding just what shall be done to meet the Cubans as they speak for themselves through their Constitution. Not a little trouble has been caused, it is known, by representatives of foreign governments in Cuba working upon the Cubans to encourage them to a reserved course of action with the United States. These Consuls are all looking out for their own countries, not for the United States, and they have impressed some of the Cubans.

The imminence of the extra session has led to some talk in the House among leading Republicans as to what machinery shall be set up for use during the extra session, and the general belief seems to be that an effort will be made to restrict the business to Cuba alone by appointing only the committees necessary to keep the House in motion on that subject. Accounts, mileage, and insular affairs are suggested as committees that will be absolutely necessary. Any bill touching Cuba or any resolution to be considered or reported would naturally go to the Insular Affairs Committee, constructed to take up the affairs of Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines. The neglect to appoint other committees would render an attempt to wander into other fields of legislation futile.

It is assumed that a Committee on Rules would be made, and that committee would direct what business should be considered. In the Senate there would be every facility for transacting business to the stage of sending it to the House, only to have most of it arrested there until next Winter. There is no expectation that the Shipping bill will be taken up in the extra session. So far as this session is concerned, it has been absolutely abandoned.

Intimations were thrown out some time ago by spokesmen of the Administration that the relations between Cuba and the United States might properly be defined in some other instrument than the Constitution. It is now certain that this was due to information which had been received by the President from Gen. Wood to the effect that it was hopeless to expect the Constitutional Convention to insert a definition of these relations in the organic law. The convention intends to enact an electoral law, which is to go into practical effect ninety days before the Constitution does, and this law is to be used as a basis for the arrangement of the relations between the two countries.

The Cubans are firmly determined to avoid anything which could be construed as a recognition of a state of vassalage toward the United States, and this applies even to those of them who are most anxious for the definition of relations to be in the shape that the United States desires. They believe that to make the definition of relations a part of their fundamental law would be a humiliation and would involve an admission that they are not free and independent. Hence the desire to make the definition in a separate instrument. It was the recognition of this which led Gen. Wood to issue his proclamation, after the Constitutional Convention had met, in which he placed the definition of relations second to the adoption of the Constitution. The Administration, guided by the information received from Gen. Wood, agreed to this, and a Cabinet officer, in explaining the reasons for its concession, said that the Administration was not disposed to haggle over the manner in which its desires were accomplished provided that the guarantee was sufficient.

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