

CUBANS' REPORTS ON FUTURE RELATIONS

Majority Specifies Conditions of Intervention.

Says Naval Stations Should Be Sold or Leased—Minority Objects to Platt Amendment.

HAVANA, May. 19.—The committee on Relations of the Cuban Constitutional Convention will submit majority and minority reports to the convention to-morrow. The majority report, in an introduction, quotes Article I. of the Treaty of Paris; the Joint Resolution of the United States Congress, and the Platt Amendment, and then proceeds as follows:

"Inasmuch as Secretary Root, being authorized by President McKinley, says that the Platt law has for its object the guaranteeing of the independence of Cuba, and does not mean interference with its government, or the exercise of a protectorate or of sovereignty, and also that intervention will only take place when independence is endangered by outside powers or grave interior disturbances, creating anarchy; and, inasmuch as Secretary Root has said that the naval stations will not be used for vantage points of intervention, but only to protect Cuba against foreign powers, we report as follows:

"That, in virtue of the fact that the Platt law, in its preamble, says it is a fulfillment of the joint resolution and has been adopted by Congress with the principal object of establishing independence, we do propose to the Convention to accept the following as an appendix to the Constitution:"

The first, second, fourth, and fifth clauses are quoted in their entirety. The third clause has the following addition:

"It being understood that the United States have the right to intervene to prevent the action of a foreign power or disturbances causing a state of anarchy, and that the intervention shall always be the act of the United States, and not of isolated agents. The intervention shall suppose neither sovereignty nor a protectorate, and shall only last sufficiently long to establish normal conditions. Said intervention, it is also understood, shall not have the right to interfere in the government, but only the right to preserve independence."

An addition to the sixth clause says that the ownership of the Isle of Pines shall be settled by a future treaty. An addition to the seventh clause says:

"It shall be understood that the naval stations do not give the United States the right to intervene in the interior government, but are established with the sole purpose of protecting American waters from foreign invasion directed against Cuba or the United States. Cuba will sell or lease the necessary land at points to be agreed upon later."

An addition to the eighth clause says that the Government of Cuba suggests at the same time a treaty of commerce based upon reciprocity. The minority report says:

"The explanations given to the commission in Washington show that the Platt law does not express the wishes of the United States. It was intended to protect the independence of Cuba, but the wording gives other interpretations. The United States are inconsistent in asking naval stations, when the amendment provides that no concessions shall be given to foreign powers. Such a demand raises the question whether the United States do not consider Cuba a part of their possessions."

The report of the minority virtually accepts the first and second clauses. For the third clause the following is substituted:

"That the Government of Cuba subscribes to the Monroe doctrine and will help the United States to enforce it against other nations trying to violate it."

For the fourth clause the following is substituted: "Cuba does not recognize acts of intervention which are (not?) in conformity with the Foraker resolutions and the laws of the country."

The seventh clause reads: "Cuba will maintain naval stations, handing them over to the United States in time of war."

The report of the minority recommends a commercial treaty based upon reciprocity.

The report of the majority has caused considerable surprise. It was generally believed that the Committee on Relations would recommend acceptance of the Platt amendment on the basis of the interpretation given by Secretary Root, but it was not expected that such additions would be made to various clauses as the majority recommend. A prominent Cuban lawyer said to-day:

"The majority report is not an acceptance of the Platt amendment, as it distinguishes intervention on different grounds."

A person who is in close touch with the Spanish Government made the following statement:

"It is a fact, to which the attention of all Americans should be called, that not only Spain, but Spanish residents in Cuba, both those who have retained their Spanish nationality by inscription and those who have become Cuban by not inscribing, are closely watching developments in this matter of the relations between the United States and Cuba. This is a question which seems to involve more than the Platt amendment merely. It seems to tend ultimately toward annexation."

"Spaniards here and in Spain favor annexation. Not only do they fear that any Government by Cubans, not controlled by the United States, would endanger property and even life, but they also favor annexation because they believe it would restore the Spanish influence in politics, because, with the alliance they would make with the former autonomists, the conservative Cubans, and the Americans who belong here, they would control the politics of the island by an overwhelming majority."

"This condition would meet with the approval of Spain, because, in her commercial relations with Cuba, she would be benefited by the preponderance of Spanish influence. Spain has great influence in South America and is trying to maintain her influence in Cuba. The only solution of the problem is annexation. Spaniards will not become Cubans, but they are ready to become citizens of the United States."

"All the Spaniards in Cuba and the conservative Cubans desire that the Platt amendment should not be accepted, hoping that in such an event the next Congress will take a more annexationist view of the relations between the United States and Cuba. Indeed, some of our most prominent Spaniards and Cubans have gone so far as to approach Governor General Wood to tell him that the most conservative and American solution of the present problem would be the rejection of the Platt amendment and to urge that the United States should take special notice of the situation, in order to see what deep root the desire for annexation has taken."