



Panorama of Oporto. On the right is the second largest suspension bridge in the world.

A REPUBLIC IN A DAY

The Portuguese Revolution Throws a Shifting Light on World Governments.

By AUGUSTUS BRIDLE

REPUBLICS, unlike poets, are made, not born. Portugal holds the record for swift making. Last week a party of Americans—including Canadian—writers for the press, sailed up the St. Lawrence from England; out less than six days when a packet of newspapers was landed on board from the pilot boat at Father Point.

"Well, what's the news? Anything startling—from the Old World or the New?" enquired half a dozen of one who had most of the reading matter.

"Portugal declared a republic," was the reply. While the ocean liner had been coming from the Old World to the New the thing had been done; a complete revolution, king a fugitive, president appointed, cabinet slated, streets of Lisbon controlled by Republicans, loyalist troops scattered and won



The Royal Castle at Sintra, near Lisbon.

over, a Republican flag flying and a Portuguese Marseillaise adopted as a national anthem; a whole chapter of history written in a single night; summing up centuries of restless king-rule over a singular people.

Not so was France turned from monarchy to a republic after years of civil war. France has developed no symptoms of a return to monarchy. The United States ceased to be a colony and became a democracy after years of fighting the troops of King George the Third. Since which event the Fourth of July has been a spectacular and half-unconscious revival of king-hatred in the greatest of all democracies.

Fickle, however, is the history of democracy. Said one eminent Canadian Imperialist the other day to a couple of travelling Americans:

"No doubt the United States has become an oligarchy. Monarchical England is the great democracy."

Such are the paradoxes of history. Last week a shrewd Englishman talked to an observant American on tendencies in the American democracy. He alleged that the signs of the times in the United States point to the evolution of an oligarchy on one hand and a mob rule in the other. The American pointed out that a revolution might arise; that between the tyranny of the trusts and the domination of labour unions the rights of the great middle class are in danger.

Said the Englishman: "I should not be surprised to see Roosevelt seize a new power against the existing political parties as the champion of the great middle class, thereby becoming a sort of American king."

This of a democracy but a little more than a century old.

Recent developments in England demonstrate that while kingship in that country is as strong as ever, the privileges of a great landed aristocracy are being severely questioned by the working classes, including the socialists. Germany also has her signs of the times. The Kaiser finds it necessary now to re-declare the divine right of kings in the teeth of an unprecedented upheaval of the plain people, more especially the socialist element.

The causes and conditions of revolt in Portugal are radically different from those existing in the United States, but not entirely independent of conditions in South America. Indeed, Senor Lima, a chief in the Portuguese Republican party, anticipates world-wide results from the turnover in Portugal. He expects a federation of all the great Latin republics in South and Central America, where revolutions are as frequent as changes of wind. He predicts that Spain will become a republic and join the confederacy, thus exerting a profound influence upon the whole civilised world.

Which is after all only a gigantic merger of a political sort; even though it be a vast chimera.

Meanwhile, the youth King Manuel the deposed, is reputed to be glad of a chance to escape the com-



King Manuel of Portugal.



The late King of Portugal and Edward VII. of England.