

to do so to revise their methods and adopt a more modern policy. England has had a waking-up, and now that the after-effects of the war have about run their course better times may be looked for.

The First Year of Free Cuba

CONTRARY to general expectation the Republic of Cuba has proved itself well equal to the privileges of self-government. A year ago it was believed that the freedom which had been given her would not be permanent, but as a New York paper puts it, "cast adrift to paddle her own canoe, Cuba has paddled it with skill and determination." Much of the credit for this belongs to President Palma, who is evidently a man of level-headed patriotism and executive ability. When the United States withdrew from Cuba there was in the treasury the sum of \$500,000, which has been increased in the first year to \$2,700,000. The public order has been admirably maintained, educational work has been vigorously carried on, and sanitation, which in the West India Islands is a problem of vital concern, has been continued along the lines established by the Americans.

The Cuban Legislature also grappled successfully with several questions of im-

mediate importance. A reciprocity treaty, a loan bill, and a tariff bill have been passed, and although it is necessarily slow-working, the legislature of the new republic is possessed with no little amount of statesmanship. Industrially also Cuba's prospects are bright. Trade is good, the crops have been satisfactory, and the investment of outside capital in one or two cases has given encouragement to local business men. In short, the first year of Cuba's freedom as a republic in her own right has been a very successful experiment, and the results have been a pleasant surprise to the rest of the world. Now that the experiment has worked so well, additional credit must be given the United States for having given Cuba so good a start; the reforms which have been carried on during the past year were a continuation of the policy initiated by the Americans during their occupation. The chief perplexity which is now confronting Cuba is the \$35,000,000 loan bill with which the veterans of the late war are to be rewarded. So large a sum of money was necessary to prevent widespread dissatisfaction, and although it will tax the little republic's resources to meet the loan, its new-born energies will doubtless prove equal to this too.

BRITAIN'S COLONIES

IT may be that India is the "brightest jewel in the Imperial Crown." We read of the splendors of the Durbars and take it for granted; the sentiment being merely a phrase for most of us who are seldom privileged to see the crown or its jewels. But Britons, as a rule, can never think of India as a permanent home, however convenient it may be for making money.

This applies also to South Africa, which, in the common estimate of most of us, is a country barren of beauty, unromantic (except for the fierce romance as was there the few years just passed), and, somehow, wholly alien in its atmosphere; spoiled by vulgar, soulless, muck-raking for diamonds

and gold, and suspected, rightly or wrongly, of being in the hands of Jews.

Australia and New Zealand come closer to the heart of the average Briton, but we think of New Zealand as too remote, and of Australia as unhappy in an arid climate.

But Canada, with her invigorating atmosphere; occupied for a century by our own race, and with a destiny balanced between industrialism and the pastoral life; Canada stretching from ocean to ocean, and at one point from latitude 41 to the Arctic, and with dominating climatic influences, differing so greatly that the more salient features can best be summarized by taking each province separately:

This is the "Golden West" of our youth,