

Messrs. Allison & Meldrum, who practically got all the subscriptions and attended to the details in connection with the organization are to be congratulated upon the result of their labours. These gentlemen will also occupy seats on the board. It is probable that the Company will be represented in Canada by Mr. R. Wilson-Smith.

THE PHILIPPINES AT PEACE, CUBA FREE.

In no previous year of history is there such a remarkable group of events involving the fate of colonies as will make the early summer of 1902 ever memorable. Within the space of one month the British Empire has brought a war to a successful termination by which two large colonies have been brought into the imperial family. In the same period the United States has closed a war by which the Philippine Islands have been, practically, annexed to Uncle Sam's estate. In the same month the Island of Cuba, which has been under the absolute government of the United States since its capture from Spain in 1898, virtually an American colony, was given its independence and acknowledged as a self-governing, sovereign State. Three such events of prime importance never before occurred almost simultaneously. So far as the Philippines are concerned, their future government presents a problem never exceeded in complication, and Cuba's future is dark with probable troubles. The Philipinos as a people had never committed any act of commission or omission to arouse against them the hostility of the United States. They belonged to Spain, with Spain the American Government quarrelled, that quarrelled to war, and the Philippines were attacked, not for any sins of their own, but simply because they were owned by Spain. On the 1st May, 1898, American men-of-war destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay, without any fight; the Spanish vessels were simply destroyed as helpless victims by the guns of ships which their's could not reach. Absolute ownership of the islands was secured by a payment of \$20,000,000 to Spain, who, in handing them over, conveyed also a lively insurrection which she had for years been trying to suppress. The Americans paid the twenty millions in the full expectation of getting what may be termed "a clear title" to the islands, but they found "a man in possession," who, for four years, fought to keep the purchaser from enjoying quiet ownership. Though the military struggle is declared to be over, there is one ahead which will create serious political consequences in the States. The questions now are: Shall the Philippines be treated as a colony subject to the control of the United States; or, shall they be incorporated with the States; or, shall they be gradually led up to a state of

absolute independence; or, shall Manila only be retained as an American possession? Those questions are now dividing the people of the United States into several sections, though a broad line can be discerned which groups them into two parties. In one main division are those who are anti-Imperialists, who regard this continent as the proper sphere for the American Republic, and all foreign possessions as excrescences. The other section scouts this theory as antiquated, impracticable, as a confession of political weakness, of incapacity in the art and power of government. The colonial systems of England, Holland, Denmark, are pointed to as examples of the great wealth-producing value of foreign possessions, as well as the prestige they confer on the State owning such colonies. It is pointed out that unless the United States has some foothold in the East, where Great Britain, France, Holland, Germany, have possessions representing their power, American influence in that quarter of the globe will be non-existent, although America's trade interests are enormous and extending in China, Japan, Australia, and the Philippines. The United States have gone too far to withdraw from a policy of colonizing. They have interfered too materially with the Government of China, and entered into too serious obligations, express or implied, in regard to eastern affairs, to withdraw wholly from the scene where the European Powers are still playing a great game, with trade dominance as the stakes. We may look then with confidence, we submit to the Philippines being retained as an American Colony; a centre of American influence in the East; a station of American naval power; and a point from which may radiate movements that may bring the United States into conflict with the Great Powers of Europe. Happily for Great Britain she has an ally in Japan bound to her by interests and a formal treaty, and a virtual ally in the United States, whose amity and good-will were made more worthy of cultivation than ever before by becoming the supreme controller of the Philippines. Let Great Britain, the United States and Japan stand together as an eastern "Dreibund," they could compel all other Powers, far and near, to keep the peace, and establish and maintain such forms of government as are required to advance civilization, develop commerce, and remove causes and opportunities for disastrous conflicts by sea or land.

It is a strange anomaly in regard to Cuba that no sooner was the island proclaimed to be free, and a native president elected, than a movement became lively to annex the island to the United States as a new State of the Union. The Cubans even were divided over this, their new freedom having satisfied them only as long as a child is with a new toy.