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AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF CUBA.

AS Napoleon said, you cannot have a republic in a country in which there are no republicans. (If he erred in applying the dictum to France, that was simply an error in diagnosis). Cuba Libre shows that it is hard to have a free country which is occupied by people who have no genius for freedom. The landing of American marines and the sailing of an American naval squadron to preserve order in the island probably indicates that the independence of Cuba is drawing to a close. The fact that the aid of the United States forces was invited by President Gomez, only serves to emphasize the helplessness of the Cuban government—of any Cuban government—to govern Cuba.

AMERICAN EMIGRATION TO CANADA.

THE Convention of American State governors at Seattle to stem the tide of American emigration to Canada, is about the best advertisement that the Dominion has ever had—and the cheapest. It is better even than Champ Clark's speeches on the same subject. It was a brilliant but rather cruel idea of the Canadian immigration authorities to utilise the convention itself as an opportunity to advertise at the meeting place the attractions of Canada for the American settler. The convention will, no doubt, give a great impetus to the emigration movement because it cannot fail to arouse the interest of the farmers of the western states in the country which is drawing so many people across the border.

BRITISH TRANSPORTATION STRIKE.

THE British Transport Workers Federation has certainly scored a point by offering to put up a substantial monetary guarantee, for the observance by the workmen of any award which may be made by the joint board of arbitration, to be established by the Government. Mr. Lloyd George says that the men are justified in asking the same guarantee from the masters. If the principle of arbitration is accepted at all, it is difficult to see any legitimate objection to this view of the case. The chief objection to the arbitration of labour disputes

in the past has been the absence of guarantees that the men would accept the awards of the joint boards. The masters felt that they were entering into agreements, which they would have to observe faithfully in any case, and the other side would observe if it suited them to do so. The Government, however, would have to see that the guarantees on both sides were ample.

NO less than 160 delegates representing 37 nations were present at the opening of the second International Radio-Telegraphic (otherwise "Wireless") Convention on Tuesday in London. The convention marks one of the most rapid and most universal developments on record of radical and important inventions in the domain of public utilities. It is only a few years since those who knew nothing whatever about the subject were laughing at the wireless telegraph fad. First it was denounced as an unattainable dream; then it might do for a few miles under favorable conditions. To-day nearly every civilised government recognises its possibilities and its vast importance by undertaking to co-operate in legislating for its regulation in the interests of humanity. Mr. Marconi, while not the discoverer of the possibility of radio-telegraphy, was the first to make practical utilisation of it, and like most men of his class has been the most ready and most persistent in modestly disclaiming more for his inventions than he absolutely knew to be actually attained in them. At the same time no one realises more keenly than Mr. Marconi the latent possibilities in the principle to the development of which he has devoted his life. That one result of the conference will be legislation in all or nearly all the countries represented to compel the more general proper use of wireless telegraphy, we may take for granted. We say proper use because there is a use of wireless telegraphy which is highly improper since it interferes with legitimate operations to the great risk of human life and property. While it is manifestly undesirable to prevent experiments in the new science, it is highly necessary to prevent foolish, purposeless and mischievous interference with aerial messages that may be fraught with life or death. For the sake of humanity there must be reasonable restrictions on amateur exploits in this connection.