

relief of Cuba. It would have been nothing more than decent to have admitted all Cuban crops of the present year to the ports of the United States duty free. We had taken control, and had spent Cuba's revenues freely in reconstructing matters according to our own ideas. It was due to our self-respect to give the new Cuban government a handsome send-off. Economic prosperity, as every one knew, was essential both to the success of Cuba's experiment in home rule and to the establishment of permanently satisfactory relations between Cuba and the United States. Certain Western agricultural interests, creditably eager to promote the development of the American beet-sugar industry, were used as a cat's-paw by a designing combination which, in turn, had power enough at Washington to prevent any action whatsoever.

Another writer remarks: "Cuba's present is dark with the gloom of industrial disaster and commercial stagnation. Her future is bright with the promise of peace and abundant prosperity."

In the Philippines a nominal peace exists; that is to say, civic rule has been in force since the early part of July, when an amnesty as generous as that granted by the British in South Africa was announced to all insurgents. Civil government has since been observed throughout the archipelago, and apparently with little difficulty. Here, too, is the interesting spectacle of a conquered people taking lessons from the victors, the notorious Aguinaldo having announced his intention to visit the United States and study American institutions.

Now that the war is over, what is the next step to be? A sentiment in favor of granting independence seems to be gaining strength. President Roosevelt himself has given a significant yet non-committal expression on this point:

"We believe that we can rapidly teach the people of the Philippine Islands not only how to enjoy but how to make good use of their freedom; and with their growing knowledge their growth in self-government shall keep steady pace. When they have thus shown their capacity for real freedom by their power of self-government, then, and not till then, will it be possible to decide whether they are to exist independently of us or be knit to us by ties of common friendship and interest."

The question remains, however, whether these people are really fitted for self-government. Cuba's experiment has not yet gone far enough to furnish parallel proof, and even if Cuba's autonomy

proved a success it does not necessarily follow that the same success would result in the Philippines. There is a feeling in the United States in favor of annexing Cuba, but it is only fair to say that it is by no means general or representative. The Philippines must remain for some time a still greater problem, and it may become an elephant on the hands of Congress. During the past summer much trouble has been caused by religious complications, and the case has been carried to Rome. But there can be only one feeling toward the United States, namely, a desire that her plans of peace and prosperity in the Pacific may meet with speedy success.

United States Elections

Congressional elections will be held throughout the United States early in November. The issues are important, though not in all cases very clearly marked, and the elections will be attended with the usual interest. Matters have already reached an acute stage in some of the states. Republicans and Democrats are opposed particularly on the old score of the tariff, which is complicated further by questions bearing on the control of the trusts. The Democrats claim that duties should be levied for purposes of public revenue only, and desire a revision of the Dingley schedules, thus opening up anew the tariff question. The Republicans, on the other hand, claim that the tariff as it exists at present is working well, that the country is prosperous, and that evidence is lacking that any public interest demands tariff changes.

As regards the trusts, a vigorous attitude has for some time been maintained by President Roosevelt, action having been taken against two concerns by way of test cases. The President's position has been endorsed by a number of Republican platforms, and the fact that their political opponents have thus taken the matter up will make it the more difficult for the Democrats to stake their claims