

**THE CUBAN ROW POLITICAL.**

**It Is Not an Insurrection, Says Mr. Gonzales, But a Revolt of "Outs" Against "Ins."**

Columbia, S. C., Special from H. E. C. B., Charlotte Observer.

The people of this section of the country are becoming very much interested in Cuban affairs. It begins to look as if President Roosevelt would intervene and make war on the fighting neighbors. Secretary of War Taft is in Cuba now, doing what he can to bring about peace. United States warships and soldiers are on hand to quell any row that might arise. I was sent, yesterday, by The Observer, to Columbia to interview Mr. W. E. Gonzales, the editor of The State, concerning the situation as he sees it. Mr. A. G. Gonzales, father of the Gonzales brothers, of South Carolina, was a native of Cuba. Up to the time of his death he took a keen interest in the affairs of the island and his sons have inherited his fondness for Cuba. The late Mr. N. G. Gonzales at one time left his editorial work and went to Cuba and fought with the patriots against Spain. Mr. W. E. Gonzales, one of the best informed men in the South on the conditions in Cuba, is very much interested in the future welfare of the country and the people.

Mr. A. G. Gonzales was a member of the first Cuban junta and, in 1848, came to this country to get a large body of American soldiers, who were just returning from the war in Mexico, to enlist with the Cubans against the Spaniards. He had \$3,000,000 as a guarantee, but the project fell through. Two years later an independent expedition was gotten up and the insurgents landed at Cardenas. Mr. Gonzales was second in command to General Lopez. He was in actual command, as Lopez could not speak English. The Spanish garrison at Cardenas was captured. Mr. Gonzales was the first Cuban wounded, fighting for Cuban liberty. But the Cubans had to retire from Cardenas. The reinforcements that were expected did not materialize. The attacking patriots fled to Key West for safety. In 1851 a second expedition of Cubans and Americans were organized, but most of the soldiers were captured and put to death by the Spaniards.

Mr. Gonzales crossed over to this country and settled in South Carolina, married there and reared an interesting family of children. He joined the Confederate army when Fort Sumpter was fired on and fought until General Lee surrendered. He was a colonel of artillery.

Mr. W. E. Gonzales is an interesting man. I called at his sanctum today and prevailed on him to give me an interview on the Cuban troubles. He is so deeply interested in the little island and the people there he seemed glad to talk about them. I found him very attractive. He is a young man with iron gray hair, cunning eye and animated face. After having passed the compliments of the season with him I interrogated him concerning Cuba. He is affable and clever.

"What do you think of the Cuban insurrection?" I asked.

"It is really a revolt of the Outs against the Ins," said Mr. Gonzales. "It does not amount to an insurrection. It is more like a political struggle brought to an acrimonious point, as we see it in America, than anything else."

"Whilst the reports that have emanated from American correspondents in Havana are calculated to lead the American public to believe that the revolt is widespread, the fact is that all the insurgents that have been reported in the field are confined comparatively to a very small area. The island is 600 miles long and there has been no evidence of unrest in the central portion of the Santiago end. The reports are sent by friends of annexationists, who are

made up largely of what we term 'American interests'—the interests of the Americans and their agents amount to about \$1,500,000 or \$2,000,000, which has been invested in Cuba within the last seven years.

"From the very outset the reports from Havana have exaggerated the strength of the insurgents or rebels, and minimized the ability of the government to cope with them. They have also indicated that the people of Havana regardless of class, were desirous of American intervention.

"As a sample of these reports I will cite you to the following item sent out by the Associated Press from Havana on the 16th. of the month:

"The new situation was received at the hotels and clubs with blank surprise. Here it was considered that the arranging of peace without the guarantee of the United States behind it would be an unwelcome outcome, it being feared that the future tranquility of the island would not be assured.

"In this story it was reported that the government was about to affect an amicable settlement with the rebels.

"No power on earth can assure tranquility in Cuba unless the Cubans come in with their own free will. Here is another sample of the dispatches that are being sent out from the island. This left Havana on the 23rd. It reads:

"All classes are now waiting for the conditions under which tranquility will likely be restored in Cuba, and disappointment is expressed on every side because of the likelihood of peace being brought about without armed American intervention."

"There has been no appeal for assistance to Washington from the Cuban government. We have absolutely nothing except the indefinite statements of American correspondents in Havana to indicate that the uprising is serious or that the government feels unable to cope with it. On the other hand, there has been no loss of life since the initial skirmishes between the malcontents and the rural guards more than three weeks ago, and even the Havana correspondents, who have so industriously pushed this propaganda for intervention, have not been able to report the destruction of property.

"I would be very glad to see Cuba become an American State with the consent of the Cubans, but it is manifest to every observer that Mr. Roosevelt and his administration consider intervention as synonymous with annexation, and it is certain, that to bring that island under American domination against the will of a large majority of its 2,500,000 people, will not only be a gross injustice to a people that have for more than a half century fought for independence against overwhelming odds, but it will result in untold trouble and expense to this country.

"It is surprising to find Southern papers advocating the domination of Cuba and consenting to a disingenuous construction of the Platt amendment. For instance, The Richmond Times-Dispatch and The Baltimore Sun direct attention to the fact that the platform of the Democratic party in 1860 contained a plank advocating 'the acquisition of Cuba on such terms as shall be honorable to ourselves and just to Spain.' If these papers were familiar with Cuban history they would know that the patriots of Cuba, 12 years before that date, asked to be taken into this republic."

Mr. Gonzales' father was one of the men who came to the United States to make this offer.

"They were seeking relief from the burdens imposed by Spain," continued Mr. Gonzales, "and desired the independence that an American State then enjoyed.

But as Cuba would have had to come in as a slave State the anti-slavery party opposed acquisition. The Democratic party of 1860 would not have advocated the rape of Cuba as is now proposed by so many Republicans and some Democrats. Mr. Roosevelt's utterances in his recent warning to the Cuban people clearly show his belief to be that if the American forces are now employed to quell an uprising in the island that they will never be withdrawn.

"It will be interesting to know by what authority Mr. Roosevelt takes such a position. If he sends an armed force into Cuba the only authority he has for doing so is contained in what is known as 'the Platt amendment,' adopted by Congress in February, 1901. The clause giving authority reads: 'That the government of Cuba consents that the United States may exercise the right to intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence, the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life, property and individual liberty.'

"It will be observed that this amendment provides intervention primarily for the purpose of 'preserving Cuban independence,' and yet Mr. Roosevelt implies that intervention would mean the destruction of that independence and this erroneous idea seems widespread in America.

"Fifty-eight years ago the Cubans revolted against Spain. They were crushed time after time but kept rebelling. There was revolt after revolt.

"The people of this country should not and cannot forget the cruel Weyler and his reign of terror and brutality. The Cubans could not be expected to be quiet if they were forced into the United States by tricks of Spanish merchants and American speculators.

"These annexationists have had a lobby in Washington and it is my opinion that the natives have had liberal aid from Americans in Cuba to encourage them in this revolt."

In concluding Mr. Gonzales said: "I do not think that the United States has any business sending warships to Cuban waters to parade for a show. Cuba has no navy. It looks as if the President were trying to convince the people of this country that something great was about to take place in the island. It seems absurd to me. Cuba has not asked us to intervene. There is no real necessity for it; the news from there proves that."

**Correct.**

Monroe Journal.  
We all feel grateful for the kind words and deeds of those who remember us in the time of distress and in the hour of affliction. But why should we want to express so obvious a fact through the newspapers? When we have gotten over the wounds or have seen light through the trouble and are not able to thank in person those who have helped bear our burdens, it is a mighty poor way of expressing appreciation to send word to the paper to write you up something good and nice. Some time in the unforgotten past the people of this town and county got into the habit of "cards of thanks." I have seen people on like grim death who would not seem to think that they were not buried with due honors unless the card of thanks appears. It is done, too, in most cases, not from any real desire to express a feeling of gratitude, but because it is the custom. Such cards might once have been real expressions of gratitude, but if so, they have ceased to be, and are only a habit. Let's throw it off.

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