

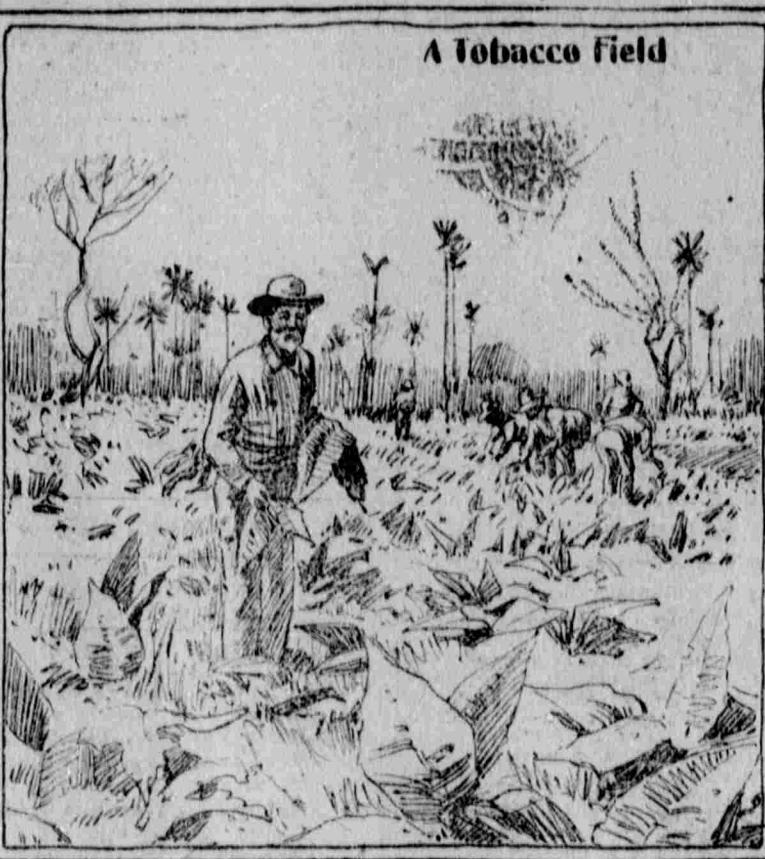
# The Industrial Development of the Island of Cuba; How American Ideas Are Helping the Country's Agriculture

**I**n view of the discussion in congress of the Cuban reciprocity question widespread interest is naturally felt in the condition of Cuba today. From an industrial standpoint the island is of much more importance today than it was in the heyday of the Spanish regime. It is true that the two great industries of the island, sugar and tobacco growing, have not yet recovered from the devastation wrought during the long years of the struggle for independence, when every mill, and practically every plantation and railroad, was destroyed, but the impetus which the American occupation gave to the recultivation of the leading staples has already had marked effects, and the sugar and tobacco plantations seem more like their old selves than at any time since the close of the war. It is stated, for example, that 80,000 people find employment in the tobacco fields. But from an economic standpoint this does not mean so much as does the fact that an intelligent effort is being made in the direction of diversified farming, whereby the island will not be so dependent upon its two principal products as has been the case in the past.

Why such an effort was not made during the long period of European occupation it is somewhat difficult to say. In the west end of the island are to be found all the conditions requisite to the successful cultivation on a large scale of tropical fruits as well as fruits that are not essentially tropical. Oranges, pineapples, grapes and bananas might be made leading staples. Of course one thing that formerly militated against any extensive enterprise was the lack of transportation facilities, a condition which is being revolutionized, thanks chiefly to American



Loading Sugar Cane



A Tobacco Field

in the exploitation of the orange industry. A most important factor in the development of the agricultural resources of the island is the large area of virgin soil which it boasts. But a small proportion of the 44,000 square miles has been brought under the plow. One reason for this is to be found in the fact that individuals hold large blocks of land, of which they work a comparatively insignificant portion. Under the new regime, however, and the beneficent influx of foreign capital a change for the better is becoming apparent, and if large holdings are not decreasing so rapidly as some would desire they are being cultivated to a greater extent. In this, again, American influences are making themselves felt.

In addition to the tobacco, sugar cane and fruit industries, an enterprise for which some predict a brilliant future is cotton growing. An American grower of experience who has looked into the question carefully believes that the variety best suited to the climate and soil of Cuba is the famous sea island cotton and has also given it as his opinion that every acre of fair soil planted in cotton should, provided it be cultivated intelligently, yield an annual income of \$100 to \$150. An American company has gone into the business on a large scale.

Grains are not grown to any great extent, with the exception of maize, which is to be found all over the island and is used largely for the feeding of live stock. Some experts consider it doubtful whether the output of wheat will ever meet the home demand. Rice is cultivated to a certain extent, but not in a quantity sufficient to do more than supply domestic needs. In some sections, particularly in Santiago province, coffee is a staple product. An important food stuff in evidence everywhere is the sweet potato, the natural

conditions being very favorable to its cultivation. As may be expected, the proclivity of vegetation tends to the establishment of large stock farms, and the live stock industry is beginning to recover from the effects of the war, which was as disastrous to it as to agriculture. In 1894 the island boasted 581,735 horses, 2,485,766 cattle, 550,000 hogs and 78,000 sheep. While five years later, when it again became possible to take a census, it was found that Cuba then possessed but 88,000 horses, 375,000 cattle, 358,365 hogs and 9,982 sheep. The trend has been upward ever since.

Truck farming, to which comparatively little attention was paid prior to the American occupation, now forms an important industry. Potatoes, onions, tomatoes, eggplants, beans, asparagus, cauliflower, cucumbers, celery, strawberries, watermelons and cantaloupes being among the small vegetables and fruits that are produced bountifully in the rich soil of Cuba.

The exploitation of the forests of Cuba is also proving remunerative. Mahogany and cedar grow in abundance, the latter being used extensively in the manufacture of cigar boxes. Manufacturing, it may be remarked, has not as yet attained any degree of prominence save in the tobacco business, but with the development of the island's railroads and the betterment of the ordinary methods and routes of transportation rapid progress in many manufacturing industries may be expected. This will follow, too, as a result of the development of the island's mines. Copper, gold, silver and lead are found in small deposits in various localities, but the principal minerals are iron and manganese, which occur chiefly in the eastern end of the country and more particularly in Santiago province, where American capital has been heavily invested.

THURMAN L. ELTON.

## Characteristic Types In the Republic of the Isthmus; Some Common and Uncommon Callings That Are Followed There



**W**HETHER the climate or heredity is to blame, certain it is that a most characteristic occupation of the people of the republic of the isthmus is idling time away. They are adepts in the gentle art of loafing. All Panamanians are not drones, but the great majority of them prefer inaction to activity, unless a revolution is on foot, when they are all life and bustle. The gentleman shown in the illustration is an inhabitant of the city of Colon.

**T**HE life of a soldier has always appeared to have a great charm for the average Panamanian man, or for that matter, boy. The Colombian army, whether it be governmental or revolutionary, numbers in its ranks many mere lads. As a general thing soldiering in Panama is equivalent to "soldiering" in the slang sense of the word. As the illustration shows, the problem of keeping his uniform neat does not worry the Panamanian soldier to any noticeable extent.

**T**HE rural districts furnish some most interesting types, most of which are to be seen in the streets of the chief towns on market days. A unique figure is that of the fowl peddler, who promenades up and down the streets with an odd looking cage containing chickens of doubtful age slung over his shoulder. It cannot be said that this industry is very lucrative, but the peddler derives from it an income sufficient to provide for his few wants.

**A**N industry that is cultivated extensively by both men and women is weaving. The basket weaver is a happy-go-lucky individual, picturesque in manner and costume. The old woman seen in the illustration earns her living weaving fancy bags, for which she finds a ready sale. Grasses of many kinds are found in the lowlands, and from them bags, mats and baskets of pleasing design are woven. An artisan of similar type is the bird cage maker.

**G**RAZING is carried on in some parts of the republic of the isthmus, the aristocrat of the upland regions being the owner of a cattle range. Many of the Panamanian herdsmen are sturdy, independent looking fellows, by their very appearance commanding themselves to foreigners. The herdsman shown in the illustration has just brought to market a powerful looking animal of which he is evidently very proud. Ranch life clearly agrees with this isthmian.

**V**ISITORS are always impressed by the sight of a number of women in the streets carrying heavy bundles on their heads and backs. One familiar type is the water carrier, a woman who balances jars of pottery on her head. Another type is the earthenware dealer, one of which class is portrayed in the illustration. The weight which these women support is very heavy, but they are consoled by the reflection that there is a brisk demand for their goods.

**A** CALLING which is especially popular in the city of Panama is that of the policeman. Americans are forcibly reminded of New York when they see a Panamanian policeman, for his uniform is modeled on that of Gotham's finest. The Panamanian policeman, however, cannot be compared to his northern prototype in a physical sense, for he is undersized and lacks muscular development. He contrives nevertheless to present a fairly neat appearance.

## Party Leaders In National House of Representatives; Character Sketches of Sereno E. Payne and John S. Williams

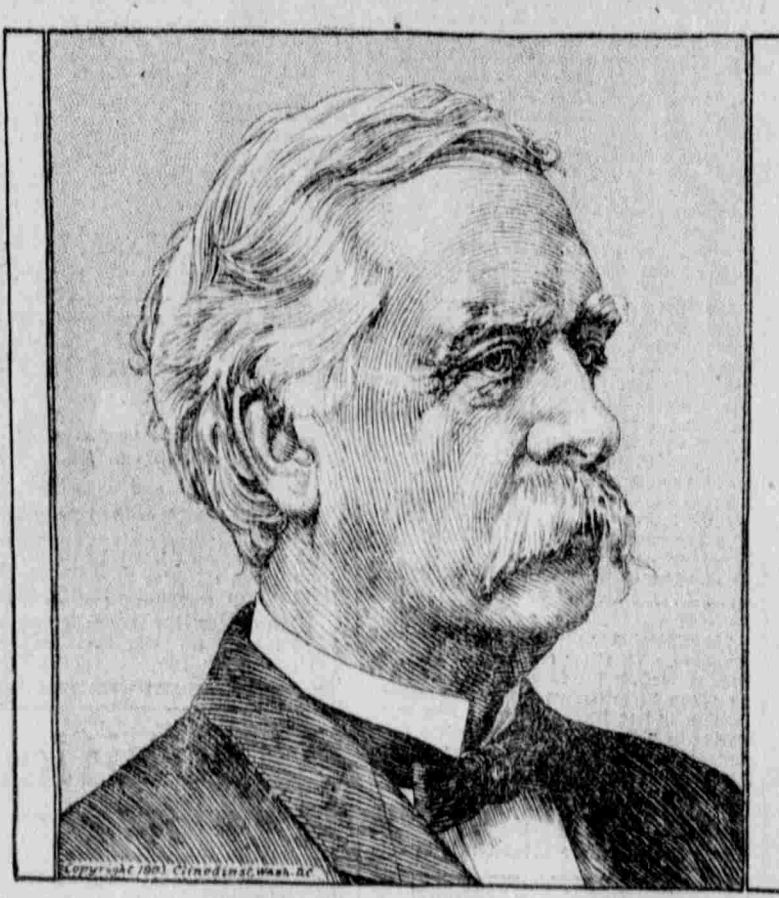
**O**F the many interesting figures in the house of representatives at Washington two who inevitably arrest the attention of visitors are Sereno E. Payne and John Sharp Williams, the floor leaders, respectively, of the Republican and Democratic parties. Mr. Payne by virtue of his position as chairman of the committee on ways and means has been the Republican leader in the house since the death of Nelson Dingley, but this is Mr. Williams' first taste of leadership. The position which he holds is one entailing heavy responsibilities, for upon the ability and force of the leader depends in no small measure the success of the party in availing itself of every opportunity to strengthen its position. At the same time it cannot be said that the leader necessarily makes or breaks his party, for at any time he may find himself confronted with circumstances or conditions over which he has no control and which contribute materially to the success or downfall of the party as a whole. In any event, however, his position is such that much credit or blame, as the case may be, will attach to him. The personality of the house minority leader is therefore of absorbing interest to political friends and opponents alike.

By training and experience Mr. Williams is well equipped for his new duties. One of his leading traits is tenacity, a quality which is a prime essential to successful leadership. Throughout his career as lawyer and legislator Mr. Williams has been noted for his stick-to-itiveness, but it has also been observed of him that his tenacity, tempered by good judgment, has not degenerated into that species of mulish obstinacy so often found in men of strong will. Yet he is not a man to be turned from his convictions

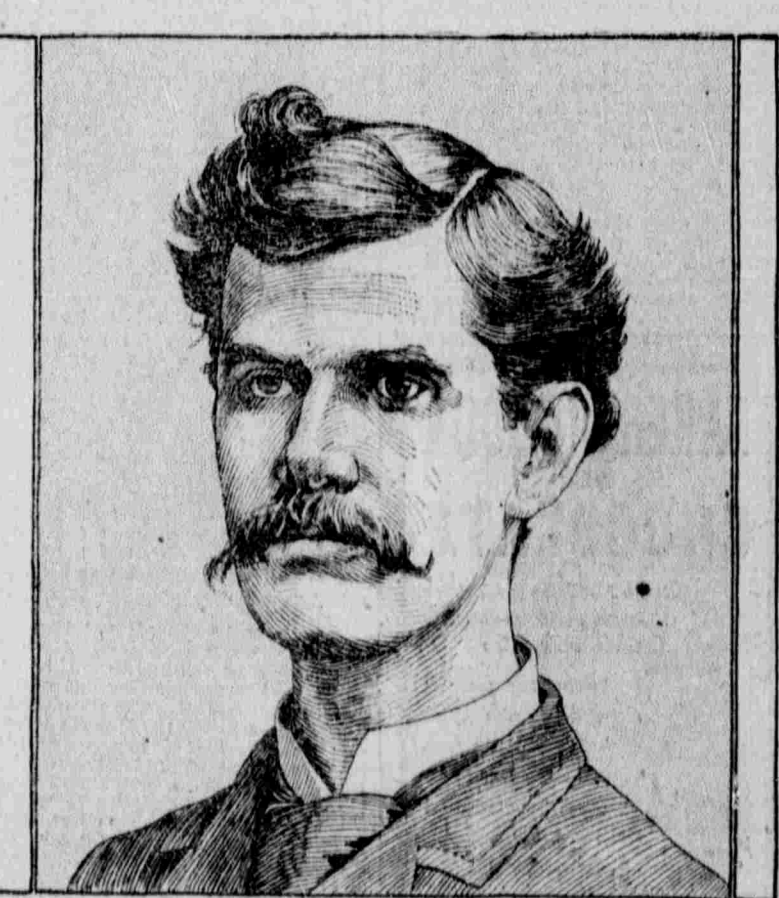
without a hard struggle, for his beliefs, political or otherwise, are based on what he regards as bedrock facts, facts which he has examined from all sides, from top and from bottom. That he has cultivated the habit of searching into essentials is another point in his favor as a house leader and is due both to heredity and education. Superficiality of thought or conduct has never appealed to him. That he is one of the most urbane and courtly of men thus becomes significant in any study of his character, for, reasoning by analogy from his mental traits, it means that he is innately courteous and that he respects his fellows as he would have them respect him. Herein heredity again makes its effect manifest.

Mr. Williams comes of a line of distinguished southerners. His father, who died on the bloody battlefield of Shiloh, was a brave officer of the Confederate army, a southerner of the old school. His great-grandfather, Colonel John Williams, was likewise a soldier and as commander of the Ninth North Carolina regiment rendered conspicuous service during the war of the Revolution. Yet another martial progenitor was Mr. Williams' maternal grandfather, Colonel John Sharp, who as senior captain of the First Mississippi rifles, the regiment commanded by Jefferson Davis, served in the war with Mexico. His paternal grandfather, Christopher Harris Williams, was a legislator like himself and back in the forties and fifties represented for ten years the old west Tennessee district in the national house of representatives. From such as these Mr. Williams inherited a degree of mental vigor and independence of thought that marked him among his fellows even while he was a boy.

As a speaker Mr. Williams is fluent and forceful, and if he cannot be accounted oratorical in the full meaning of the term, he possesses the faculty of expressing his ideas clearly and logically.



SERENO E. PAYNE.



JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS.

Indeed, it is his ability as a logician that as much as anything else has made him a man to be reckoned with. A student of philosophy, he is a student of human nature and a student of equal facility deep metaphysical problems and the affairs of the times. His thorough education has undoubtedly left its mark upon him in the direction of a tendency to go to the heart of things, while to his legal training may in no small measure be attributed his ability to hunt out and take advantage of argumentative weaknesses. To it must also be accredited his facility in amplifying or condensing

his statements as occasion requires. In personal appearance Mr. Williams is good looking, of attractive build, 5 feet 10 inches tall, with dark brown hair and blue eyes. He is popular on both sides of the house, his popularity being enhanced by his courtesy and his ability as a raconteur, for he not only

knows many good stories, but knows how to tell them, which is even more to the point. He has ranked for years as one of the wits of the house, alert and keen at repartee, but not losing control of himself even under most trying circumstances. All this makes him a worthy foe for Mr. Payne, with

whom he now naturally crosses lances most frequently.

Mr. Payne, who has long been prominently before the public as a leader in the councils of the Republican party as well as floor leader in the house, will appear as a stranger to many who have in past years watched him from the visitors' gallery, for he has lost his full beard and now possesses by way of hirsute adornment but a mustache. Like Mr. Williams, Mr. Payne is a lawyer of long experience, but is a much older man than the leader of the minority, being in his sixty-first year. He is a veteran legislator, having served in the house since the forty-eighth congress with the exception of one term.

It may be said that Mr. Payne's legislative reputation was won as a tariff debater, but he had previously acquired more than local fame through his forensic ability at the bar, to which he was admitted in 1866, practicing his profession at his home city of Auburn, N. Y. He is a man of dignified presence and of wide information on general as well as legal and legislative subjects. In debate he is earnest and forceful, driving his points home with a smile that betokens confidence and proves most tantalizing to his opponents. It has been said that this smile is one of Mr. Payne's most valuable assets. His voice is powerful and expansive, as befits one of his physical build, and when he speaks every syllable can be distinctly heard in all parts of the large chamber. A man of studious inclinations, like Mr. Williams, he, too, makes a point of availing himself of every possible source of information in the preparation of his statements, which are delivered without any great attempt at word painting or rhetorical effect. What he seeks is to hammer his arguments home with an energy that cannot be resisted.

PERCY G. GENTRY.