Expansion Work in Cuba  Two organizations have taken up the work of American expansion on Cuban soil, in a direction which ought to be an encouragement both to those who have an indefinite dread of so-called imperialism, and those who have definite faith that the American people will throw their influence and energy on the side of educational, political, and religious freedom in the new territory which we have recently acquired. "The Cuban Industrial Relief Fund" has been organized to accomplish the following objects in Cuba:

1. To secure good farming land where the need of the poor is most pressing.
2. To station there a capable American superintendent, with implements, seeds, and funds sufficient to employ a considerable number of men.
3. To set at work all the able-bodied poor and pay them full market rates for their labor.
4. To raise common food crops, sell them in the best available market, and with the proceeds continue the employment, only as the need exists, using the same money over and over again.
5. To return the farmers to their own former homes as soon as they are physically, mentally, and financially able to re-establish their plantations.

This scheme of relief is based on similar work which was carried on successfully among the Armenians. Detailed information may be obtained by addressing "The Cuban Industrial Relief Fund," 75 Tribune Building, New York. The second organization is the "Cuban Educational Association," which has just been formed at the suggestion of Major-General Joseph Wheeler to provide educational opportunities in American colleges for Cuban young men. In the Board of Directors of this Association are Major-General Joseph Wheeler, Mr. Alexander E. Orr, of the New York Chamber of Commerce, Professor Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia University, Dr. Albert Shaw, editor of the "Review of Reviews," and Mr. Gilbert K. Harroun, Treasurer of Union College. In response to letters sent to over three hundred American colleges and educational institutions, a very large number of replies have been received offering free tuition to two Cuban pupils placed in each institution. Such institutions as Harvard, Williams, Cornell, Columbia, and the like have agreed to co-operate in the work. The Association proposes to examine and select the Cuban candidates for the educational advantages it will endeavor to provide, and thus to assure the supporters of the work that the best results will be obtained. The address of the Association is 289 Fourth Avenue, New York. Time only can decide whether these promising undertakings shall be successful, but they are certainly planned on lines that ought to command the support of expansionists and anti-expansionists alike. President McKinley has taken action to relieve the immediate suffering (the extent of which, recent reports indicate, can hardly be exaggerated) by sending supplies through the War Department for distribution in Cuba. It is also reported that the insurgent soldiers will receive some, at least, of their back pay, the amount to be charged against future revenue receipts at the Havana Custom-House.

Trade-Union Sentiment  The Convention of the American Federation of Labor showed to the country—wherever its proceedings were reported—how organized labor stands upon several important public questions. The question upon which the Convention itself was most divided was the proposal to indorse independent political action on the part of the working classes. The proposal came before the Convention in the form of five distinct resolutions, one of which went so far as to indorse the Socialist Labor party, while another simply declared for the free discussion of political questions in trades-union meetings. They were all,
of which Adam Smith said that it caused vessels to be fitted out "not to catch fish but to catch bounties." In the case of these fishing vessels, Senator Hanna's bill makes the severe requirement that not more than two-thirds of the crew shall be aliens and that a whole third, if born abroad, must have their naturalization papers. For the crew of these fishing vessels the bill nominally provides a bounty of a dollar a month; but as there is no stipulation by which the market rate of fishermen's wages is raised, there is nothing to prevent ship-owners from paying a dollar a month less than heretofore. Another important section of the bill provides that American vessels may be purchased abroad, if the companies building them will construct a corresponding number of vessels here. This provision closely resembles that under which the New York and the Paris were admitted to American registry six years ago, but is better than the former bill in that its privileges are not given to a single corporation, but are open to all. It is said that substantially this bill will be vigorously pushed during the present winter, and receive the general support of members unwilling to restore American shipping by the simpler process of enabling Americans to buy ships as cheaply as foreigners.

Another Victory in Chicago

The fight against the extension of street-car franchises in Chicago until the Allen Law is repealed has been simply a succession of victories. At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen last week the street railway companies had on hand the anticipated ordinance offering the city somewhat better terms than the fifty-year five-cent-fare franchise defeated the week before. But the public was so thoroughly aroused to the fact that the city streets would be continually in danger so long as the Allen Law remained on the statute-book that the Council, by a vote of 40 to 23, withdrew all the pending franchise ordinances from the Joint Committee on Streets and Alleys, which had reported them. Even this victory, however, did not suffice. By a majority of one, the Board finally referred all of these ordinances to the Committee on City Hall, a committee which has the same rank in the Chicago Council that the Committee on Revolutionary Claims has in Congress. It is a committee which has nothing to do and never meets, and for that reason had been filled with reformers when John Powers and the "gang" organized the Board. The fight at Chicago, therefore, is won, and won in such a way that victory at Springfield seems probable. Nevertheless, the fight in the Legislature will be conducted with vigor by the street railway corporations. The length to which they are ready to go has been shown by the methods pursued in Chicago. The "Inter-Ocean," which is owned by Mr. Yerkes, the head of the traction company, has had its columns almost filled with abuse of the "Anarchists" who fought against the turning over of public property to private corporations. The newspapers, such as the "Tribune" and "Record," which opposed the franchise grant, were denounced as blackmailers, and their proprietors were charged with employing agents whose demands upon the traction companies had been refused. The "Inter-Ocean" even maintained that the Anarchistic attitude assumed by the other papers had injured the credit of Chicago in the financial world, and published dispatches from New York and Cleveland to the effect that bankers were shaking their heads over the idea of taking Chicago bonds. As a matter of fact, Chicago bonds never sold at so good a figure as now, and the fact that nearly the whole city can be aroused to prevent the corruption of the City Council has made the citizenship of Chicago stand higher than ever before in the esteem of the country.

The Dreyfus Infamy

The Dreyfus Case Again dies hard. Stupid and shallow devices are still employed to stop the investigation of the facts and to keep up the ridiculous mystery and the sham show of patriotism which have made the treatment of the case a monument of chicanery and fraud. The more sincere the friendship of Americans for France, the more contemptuous must be their attitude toward the men who have contributed to bring this shame upon her. The Court of Cassation is now engaged in the first honest attempt to get at the facts in the Dreyfus business. It has so far refused to be hoodwinked and trifled with; it has courageously taken Colonel Picquart out of the hands of the court martial in order that the judges might hear what he had done; and the judges have ordered that all documents in the case shall be brought before them. Unless the Court
has access to every scrap of so-called evidence, its trial of the case would be as much a travesty of justice as the several trials on the various aspects of the case which have already taken place; but the moment the so-called secret documents—the mysterious, intangible, and elusive dossier and bordereau—are mentioned, straightway all the old appeals are heard: the honor of France is concerned; the safety of the Republic is endangered; these awful secrets cannot be divulged by the little group of army officials and heads of state who possess them.

It is discouraging to note the attitude of two of the French Ministers when the matter came up in the Chamber of Deputies last week. A Jew-baiter of the common sort attacked M. Brisson as having violated the constitution—whatever that may mean. M. Brisson is, of course, out of the Government, but M. de Freycinet, now the head of the War Department, promptly replied that, as these secret documents contained matter which touches the security of the nation, he would never suffer the Court of Cassation to examine them. In response to the question asked by another deputy as to whether these sacred documents could not be submitted to the Court under a special arrangement, because, if they were not, the ends of justice would be defeated, the Prime Minister himself replied that these documents could be examined only under pledge of the most solemn secrecy. Then came one of those incidents which have made this case ridiculous and incomprehensible from the start. The ex-Prime Minister, M. Brisson, a man of unquestionable courage and integrity, arose and said that he had examined all these mysterious documents, that they were all, in his judgment, under suspicion of forgery, and that there was nothing in them which in any way affected the security of France. It is needless to add that this produced, as reporters would say, a "sensation." France is, un luckily, altogether too familiar with such sensations—they count for nothing. Then General Cavaignac, the former Minister of War, rose to his feet, admitted that he had shown the dossier to M. Brisson, but said that there were other documents which M. Brisson had not seen; whereupon the case took another turn, and another abyss was disclosed beneath the other abysses. The French are mistaken in the stage upon which this performance is being given; it belongs to opera bouffe. An outsider is amazed that no man stands up in the Chamber of Deputies and in clear, vigorous, incisive tones makes the charlatanry, the chicanery, and the absurdity of the whole business so patent that the piece must be driven off the stage. The latest news advices indicate that the "secret dossier" will, after all, go to the Court of Cassation.

1898

It is difficult for contemporaries to judge one another with such dispassionateness as to secure the confirmation of the judgment of posterity; and it is equally difficult for men to measure accurately the significance and importance of their own times. There are years, however, through which it is impossible to live without feeling that they have witnessed great events and been marked by great movements. When the poet Dryden described the year which saw the burning of London and the defeat of the Dutch at sea as "Annus Mirabilis," he was not mistaken so far as picturesqueness was concerned, although there have been other years in English history which have been more potential in shaping the after-life of the nation. Probably few men in any part of the world have lived through the year 1898 without feeling, either keenly or vaguely, that it will be recorded in the future as a notable year in the history of the world. It has been so full of events that it would be impossible to enumerate them within the compass of an editorial; it has been rich in dramatic surprises and striking incidents; but it has opened lines of action which have touched the imagination of the world, not only because of their immediate importance, but because of their probable results.

Foremost among these events must be placed the fall of the Chinese Empire, and the appearance of the United States as a world-power. The great Empire of the East, so venerable with years, so long regarded as indestructible on account of its own immobility, still exists as a geographical expression; but exists only by the sufferance of other nations. Japan dealt it a blow three years ago, the full effect of which is now seen. That blow revealed the instability of what appeared to be an imposing structure; it made the world aware of the entire lack of