

passed by a vote of 161 to 153. The affirmative vote was a solid republican vote with the exception of the republicans named above, and H. C. Smith, of Michigan. The democrats voted as a unit against the passage of the bill, the only exceptions being Sibley, of Pennsylvania, who has been renominated for congress by the republicans of his district, and Davey and Meyer, of Louisiana, who were paired in favor of the bill.

While congress makes a crown colony of Puerto Rico, it is in a fair way to making an American territory of Hawaii. In the lower house, on the 6th, an enabling act was passed as a substitute for one previously passed by the senate. The two bills are alike as to the general scheme of government proposed, and differ only in details which a conference committee is expected to have no difficulty in adjusting. The Hawaiian bill went into conference on the 11th.

Of American political news, aside from proceedings in congress, there is little important to report except that on the 5th the democratic convention of Pennsylvania, following the example of the Utah convention on the 1st, unanimously instructed its delegates to the national convention to support Bryan for presidential candidate. In New York the Chicago platform democracy has issued a call for a state convention to be held at Albany on the 21st of May, to choose delegates to the national convention. This movement is in hostility to the "regular" democratic organization of the state, which is charged with being opposed to Bryan and the Chicago platform.

The Kentucky imbroglio, the last report of which in these columns appeared in No. 102 at page 10, has been decided by the highest court of the state in favor of Beckham, the democrat, who was a candidate for lieutenant governor on the ticket with Goebel. The court held that the action of the Kentucky legislature in passing upon the report of the contest board was final and that the court has no right to overrule it. What is especially remarkable about the decision is the fact that it was concurred in not only by all the democratic judges, but also by two of the republicans. Only one judge, a republican, dissents. The case has now been carried to the supreme court of the United States for final adjudication.

It is a long jump from American to Australian politics. Since the agreement of the Australian colonies to form the Australian commonwealth, and pending the consummation of that act, federal political parties have been forming. The protectionists were first in the field. Two colonies (states as they will be called), were represented in the protection convention. Then the labor party met, with delegates from three colonies. Finally the free traders had a convention at Sydney in which all the colonies but one—Tasmania—were represented. This was held on the 14th, 15th and 16th of February. On the tariff question the free trade conference adopted the following:

That the first federal tariff should, as far as the exigencies of the several states will permit, embrace a number of duties somewhat similar to those in force in Great Britain, with the intention of as soon as possible establishing a free breakfast table; any deficiency of revenue in such latter case to be made up by direct taxation.

Though it has been supposed that all the obstacles to Australian federation had been overcome, a new one has arisen. The proposed constitution or enabling act of the Australian commonwealth, which is to be an act of the British parliament, establishes a supreme federal court for Australia and provides that there shall be no appeal from its decisions to Great Britain in matters affecting the interpretation of the constitution or of the constitutions of the several states. This provision is objected to by the British ministry, which regards it as amounting to a severance of the commonwealth from the mother country. The ministry wants one court of final appeal for the whole British empire. But the Australian commissioners, now in London, charged with procuring the passage of the enabling act, are opposed to any alteration. The bill is now as the colonies have agreed upon it, and the commissioners insist that they have no authority to consent to a change.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—Frederick E. Church, of New York, the famous artist, died on the 7th, aged 74.

—Five Puerto Ricans were put to death by means of the garrote at Ponce on the 7th. They had been convicted of murder.

—Cecil Rhodes arrived in London on the 6th, but refused to talk about the South African situation, saying

that he was in England on business of a purely personal nature.

—A temperature of 5,400 degrees Fahrenheit, which will cause steel to melt like wax, has been generated by a new chemical compound invented by Louis Dreyfus, of Frankfort-on-Main, Germany.

—The Ohio statute prohibiting an employer from discharging a workman for being a member of a labor union has been declared unconstitutional by a Toledo court as being class legislation.

—The Irish-American ambulance corps which left Chicago February 10 for service with the Boer army arrived at Pretoria on the 5th, where it received an enthusiastic welcome. Michael Davitt was among the spectators.

—A New York district messenger boy sailed from New York on the 11th en route to Pretoria bearing a message of greeting and sympathy to President Kruger signed by over 20,000 schoolboys of New York, Philadelphia and Boston.

—The United States senate committee on privileges and elections agreed on the 10th by a unanimous vote to report a recommendation depriving Senator Clark, of Montana, of his seat on the ground that he had secured his election by bribery.

—For the nine months ending March 31 the United States treasury report of receipts and expenditures is as follows:

Receipts .....	\$427,163,762 23
Expenditures .....	372,861,832 96
Surplus .....	\$54,301,929 28
—The official report of the cash in the United States treasury for March is as follows:	
Gold reserve .....	\$150,000,000 00
Available cash balance .....	156,792,995 55
Total cash balance .....	\$306,792,995 55
On hand June 30 .....	281,380,468 73
Increase since June 30 .....	\$25,412,526 82

—E. Benjamin Andrews, superintendent of Chicago public schools, was elected chancellor of the Nebraska State university by the state university board of regents on the 11th. The election was made on the assurance that Superintendent Andrews would accept.

—A remarkable terrestrial upheaval occurred near Mount Baker, Washington, on March 27. What was formerly the valley and bed of the Nooksack river is now a mound 70 feet high and nearly a quarter of a mile square, in the center of which is a small lake. There are many large cracks and fissures in the mound and the upheaval was accompanied by loud rumbling and the odor of sulphur.

—The great dam at Austin, Tex., was washed away on the 7th, causing the death of 17 persons and the