

which this is done was adopted last year. It requires that the legislature shall provide for the permanent registration of voters after the year 1902, and that meantime they may be registered temporarily by county boards appointed by the governor and two other state officers acting as a board of appointment. The persons entitled to temporary registration by the county boards prior to December 29, 1900, are—

(1) males, (2) citizens, or foreign residents who have applied for naturalization, (3) 21 years of age, (4) having honorable military service, or being lawfully descended from persons with honorable military records, or having a good education and being able to understand the duties and obligations of citizenship under a republican form of government, (5) provided, however, that idiots, insane persons, convicts and vagrants are not entitled to registry.

After January 1, 1903, only the following can be registered:

(1) Those who can read and write any article of the constitution of the United States in the English language (unless physically disabled), and who are either physically unfit to work or have worked for the greater part of the year prior to their application for registry; (2) owners in their own right or in that of their wives of 40 acres of land in the state in which they reside, or of Alabama real estate or personalty assessed for taxation at \$300 or more, provided the taxes have been paid.

Nearly nine-tenths of the convention adopting this constitution were Democrats, and the constitutional convention had been called under the influence of the Democratic party of the state. The meaning and purpose of the suffrage clauses quoted above may therefore be regarded as having been authoritatively expounded when the Democratic State Campaign Committee, appointed for the purpose of conducting the ratification campaign, explained the instrument to the voters. The following quotations are from that explanation:

So long as it is necessary to maintain white supremacy in the counties having Negro majorities, and to prevent the inflicting upon any of our people of Negro domination, there has been a disposition in other parts of the State to condone the methods necessary to suppress the Negro vote. But to do that involves the doing of things which the white men in these counties have never desired to do, and which, if done at all, were done only because of what they regarded as a necessity for their own protection and government. . . . The reason for

adopting two plans—one temporary and the other permanent—is best shown by the difficulties which the convention had to meet. The Fifteenth amendment to the Federal constitution was the principal barrier, but there was another condition which good faith required the Democratic members to observe as fully as possible. . . . The party platform pledged that white men should not be disfranchised. To frame a provision that would observe this pledge and eliminate the mass of vicious Negro votes, and yet be constitutional, was no light task; but to it Democratic members of the convention addressed themselves. . . . And we unqualifiedly renew our party's pledge that under the operation of the registration feature of the new constitution no white man who can now vote will be disfranchised. . . . Under the temporary plan the Negroes cannot register. . . . When a man applies for registration he will not be asked to specify under which class he is entitled to register. The list will not show under what clause he is registered. When the party pledge not to disfranchise any white man is remembered, it is easy to see that the above plan will effectuate it. There is a general presumption that white men are of good character and understand the duties and obligations of good citizenship; the history of the race attests this. It is safe to say that the registrars will observe this presumption. This plan will not disfranchise all Negroes. It is well known that there are men of that race who are entirely competent to vote intelligently, and these will have no difficulty in registering. . . . White men insist upon their rights and will not submit to disfranchisement by any registrars, but if necessary will prove their right to register before a jury of their neighbors. The registrars will know this and will not refuse to register them except for good cause. . . . This is a white man's government and it will continue to be so. . . . The failure of the present movement for the new constitution . . . will be almost tantamount to an indorsement of the methods heretofore used, whether honest or dishonest, to control elections. . . .

The only other political news of the week of general interest is the calling of the Republican convention of Illinois to meet at Springfield on the 8th of May; of the Democratic convention of the same state to meet at Springfield on the 17th of June; the nomination on the 2d of the Republican State ticket of Oregon, headed by W. J. Furnish as candidate for governor, to be voted on in June; and the assembling of the first convention of a new national party, the

Allied party, at Louisville on the 2d. The Illinois conventions are of national importance because two factions of the Republican party in this state are so bitterly at war among themselves that the Democrats are confident of carrying the state next fall and securing a senatorship. The Allied party is another attempt to secure an organic union of the various "reform forces" of the country. The attendance of delegates on the 2d is reported as 75 from eight states. Col. J. S. Felter, of Springfield, Mo., was elected temporary chairman.

In Congress the Republican majority of the House of Representatives has agreed upon a bill regulating the tariff between this country and Cuba (see p. 673), by a general reduction of 20 per cent. on the Dingley law schedules. The measure was agreed to by the committee on ways and means of the lower house by 12 to 5. The majority included 3 Democrats and the minority 2 Republicans. The bill was thereupon, on the 31st, reported favorably to the House. Some Republican opposition to the reduction is looked for, but Republicans who are dissatisfied with the smallness of the reduction are expected to support the bill.

As the United States prepares to adjust its relations with the new republic, Cuba, a more amicable attitude is assumed by Colombia, with reference to the Isthmian canal, than what seemed probable at the time of our last report (p. 760) on that subject. She has submitted to this country for consideration a protocol, disclosed on the 31st,—

1. Embracing an entirely new concession to the United States, irrespective of the old concession to the Panama Canal company of France.
2. Consenting to and legalizing in every way the sale of the Panama company's property to the United States, and removing all question as to the validity of the title.
3. Proposing to grant the United States control, through perpetual lease, of a strip of territory amply wide for canal purposes.
4. Agreeing that all questions of police and sanitary control shall be satisfactorily adjusted.
5. Taking full cognizance of the existing treaty between the United States and Colombia, which binds the United States to preserve the freedom of transit through the Isthmus of Panama.

It is understood that the price asked for the concession is an annual sti-

pend of \$1,000,000; but as great secrecy is maintained on this point nothing about the price is really known.

Passing over to France, we find the French Chamber of Deputies adjourned for a new election which is to take place on the 27th, when a new chamber is to be chosen for four years. It will assemble on the 1st of June. The Senate, the members of which are elected for nine years (the terms of one-third of the body expiring every three years) has adjourned to June 3.

Russia has at last entered into arrangements for relinquishing, nominally at least, her self-assumed protectorate (p. 711) over Manchuria. The announcement is made by the Peking correspondent of the London Times, whose dispatch, published on the 29th, states that the Russian minister to China and the president of the Chinese foreign office have agreed upon the principal conditions of a treaty for the Russian evacuation of three provinces, to be carried out at three successive intervals of six months each, dating from the signing of the treaty. After the Russian evacuation, China is to be allowed to maintain in Manchuria whatever military force she thinks necessary.

Meanwhile another rebellion has been raging for several weeks in southern China, in and about Kwangse province. Early last month it was reported that it had become so extensive as to threaten Nanking. About the same time Mr. Conger, the American minister at Peking, was quoted as having notified the Chinese government that the United States expects China speedily to suppress this rebellion and protect foreigners. In response to his request of a few days previously for information as to the outbreak, the Chinese government informed him that 10,000 soldiers had rebelled and that they were being rapidly reinforced by other rebels. It requested him to have the foreign missionaries deposit their valuables with officials and accept an escort to the coast. On the 18th a Hongkong dispatch reported the rebellion as spreading, and told of a battle at Fangcheng which lasted two days and resulted in a defeat of the government troops under Gen. Ma; and on the 19th Gen. Ma confessed his inability to cope with the rebels without reinforcements. Three days later the

rebels had captured Kamchau in the Province of Kwangtung, of which Canton is the capital, and had seized the granaries and the arsenal. The rebel leader's name is Fungming.

These threatening disturbances in China are reported from London as having had a tendency to give the British government great concern, since the rebellion is in the region of the British "sphere of influence" in China, and Great Britain still has the South African war on her hands. Although high expectations of peace in South Africa have been raised by the journey of acting President Schalkburger, of the South African Republic, to meet President Steyn, of the Orange Free State (p. 808), no actual indications of a settlement are at hand. Schalkburger had passed through the British lines at the time of our last week's report, and was on his way, under British escort, from Pretoria to Kroonstad; but he had not yet met Steyn. It is now known that he reached Kroonstad on the 23d, and that on the 24th one of his staff was escorted, blindfolded and under flag of truce, through the British lines, to bring the Transvaal party into communication with Steyn, who was understood to be with De Wet. On the 29th a message from Pretoria stated that Steyn's whereabouts had not yet been discovered though he and De Wet had been traced to Paris, about 30 miles northwest of Heilbron road, in the Orange Free State; but on the 30th it was announced that he had been found with Delarey and that the interview between him and Schalkburger would be arranged without further delay.

This episode has not prevented the continuance of fighting. Some of the details of Delarey's escape from Lord Kitchener's cordon (p. 808) came out on the 28th. Kitchener captured 179 prisoners, but 1,500 broke through his lines and got away. Official news of a Boer victory, on the 24th, not before reported reached London on the 30th in the shape of a casualty report. A British force had lost 7 killed, 8 wounded and 29 captured near Sutherland, in Cape Colony. The prisoners were afterward released in accordance with the Boer practice. A British surprise attack on a Boer company on the 31st was repulsed, after a severe engagement, but Lord Kitchener's report of the event gives no details. To strengthen her force in the field Great Britain has

notified Canada of her acceptance of 2,000 troops offered by the Dominion for service in South Africa; and on the 1st orders were issued in London for the embarkation for South Africa of more troops on the 15th. Kitchener is believed to have again surrounded De Wet, but there is nothing authentic about the rumors.

American sympathy with the Boers was expressed on behalf of the Democrats in Congress on the 31st by the introduction into the lower House, by Congressman Sulzer, of New York, of the following resolution:

That we sympathize with the heroic Boers in their struggle to maintain their liberty and independence, and protest in the name of humanity and civilization against the continuation of a war which outrages the feelings of all liberty-loving people; and that, the Congress of the United States, being committed to the principle of arbitration for the settlement of international disputes, the President is hereby respectfully requested to urge upon the government of Great Britain the wisdom of adopting this policy for the purpose of stopping the awful atrocities now going on in South Africa; and that the President is hereby directed to maintain a strict neutrality between the contending forces, and prevent the shipment of contraband goods from ports in the United States to aid the British soldiers in South Africa, and respectfully inform the British government that, if the war in South Africa is continued, it must be conducted in accordance with the rules of civilized warfare and the provisions agreed to and adopted by the Geneva convention and The Hague peace convention.

The question of American neutrality, mentioned in the resolution, appears to have been brought to a sharp issue by the Governor of Louisiana, in which state the breach of neutrality is claimed to be in progress. Gov. Heard, of that state, officially and formally questioned the American State department on the 2d upon the subject. He writes the department that in his opinion the British government is maintaining a military camp within the territory of the United States; that the camp in question is located in his state, a few miles below New Orleans; that it is for the transshipment of horses and mules to South Africa, there to be used by British soldiers as munitions of war in the war against the Boers; that this camp is, therefore, in his opinion, a British army post, and its operations in his state a violation