

The Philippine question continues to agitate congress as the South African question does parliament, though there are no reports from the field with reference to the former as to the latter, except that Gen. Bell's reconcentrado policy is working satisfactorily. It has been on the floor of the Senate, in the vigorous debate over the Philippine tariff bill, that the Philippine question has attracted most attention during the week. The interest was heightened on the 12th by the receipt from the secretary of war, of a letter from Gov. Taft, transmitting a memorial adopted last November by the Federal party of the Philippines at Manila, in which that party declares:—

To make of the Philippines a colony of the United States or to grant independence to the Philippines would be to hand the islands over to disorder and to anarchy, to destruction and to chaos. In effect the colonial system involves the principles of difference of citizenship, inequality of rights and other consequent abuses and injustices, of all which we Filipinos were surfeited with under Spanish government, and for this reason we reject everything which tends toward a colony. Philippine independence with or without a protectorate, means a holding of power by all the tribal elements of the sects which predominate, and would predominate still for some years, until the anger of Filipinos toward Filipinos shall have been completely calmed, education become general, and the fanaticism we have inherited from Spain exiled. Federation or annexation would settle all these difficulties by concentrating the interests of the Filipino people upon education and labor.

The memorial petitions, therefore, for—

a declaration by the Congress of the United States to the effect that the Philippine islands as they are described in the treaty of Paris and the subsequent convention with Spain are an integral part of the United States, constituting a territory with the rights and privileges which the constitution of the United States grants to the other territories, such as that of becoming a state of the Union.

Before the Senate committee Gov. Taft is thus far the only witness to testify as to the situation in the islands.

A curious question of sovereignty has arisen in a serious way in Chicago over a matter about which the local press has been disposed to be jocular. It involves a conflict of juris-

diction between the state of Illinois and a nondescript "territory" called by its inhabitants "the District of Lake Michigan." The concrete issue is a case of homicide. Besides being of possible historical importance, the circumstances are interesting. On the 10th of July, 1886, Geo. W. Streeter, captain and owner of a lake vessel, the "Reutan," was wrecked in Lake Michigan, off Superior street, Chicago. In a severe storm his vessel struck upon a small sand drift just rising above the surface of the lake. When the storm subsided, the sand about Streeter's vessel had accumulated in such quantities as to form a solid island about 450 feet from shore. Streeter forthwith turned his vessel into a stationary dwelling and made it his abode, engaging for a living in the business of collecting and selling fish and renting boats. In the course of four or five years, the drifting sand filled in between the mainland and the island, a work in which the shore owners—this is an aristocratic region—assisted the action of the waves, until, instead of living on an island, Streeter found himself upon the mainland at the extreme lake front without having moved. No attention was paid to him until in the work of filling in, the employes of the shore owners wanted to work where his dwelling stood. They then ordered him off. But now he disclosed his claim to title. "This land is all mine," he said. "I discovered it when it wasn't in the city of Chicago nor the county of Cook nor the state of Illinois. It was out here in the lake outside the boundaries of the state and I discovered it and now it's mine." That was in 1890. Without trying to evict him by legal procedure, the shore owners resorted to force, and Streeter responded with a load of buckshot which wounded one of their men. For this act Streeter was tried for assault with intent to kill, but he was acquitted. Then he set about to make a record title. At first he filed plats in the Cook county recorder's office, but learning that when the government bought the Chicago part of Illinois from the Indians the then shore line, now far inland, was made the eastern boundary of the state, Streeter decided that his discovery was outside the jurisdiction of Illinois, and directed his attention to the Federal government. Being an old soldier he filed a homestead claim; and upon the refusal of the Washington officials to regard his holdings as within the area of public lands, he organized the "District of Lake Michi-

gan." His government, when organized, warned trespassers off, whereupon 100 policemen were sent over the line to assert the jurisdiction of Illinois. They tore down the buildings of the inhabitants who had bought titles from Streeter and arrested the captain and some of his associates for unlawful assembly. Streeter appears to have come out victorious, however, and although this was nearly twelve years ago, he still holds his claim. His enemies seem timid about taking direct legal proceedings to evict him, probably because their own title is weak or non-existent. They confine their attacks to indirect and criminal proceedings, in which only his title and not theirs is involved. One of their more recent movements was to get Streeter indicted by the Cook county grand jury for fraud in selling land without having a legal title. This indictment was still untried when the homicide occurred which will probably bring the question of jurisdiction into the courts upon a trial for murder. It occurred on the 11th. Henry M. Cooper, representing the shore owners, went into the disputed territory with a policeman to forbid the erection of an addition to one of the buildings there, and they were ordered out of the territory by Streeter's party at the muzzles of rifles. A reinforcement of police was secured on a riot call, but before it arrived, Frank Kirk, a watchman for Cooper, had been shot and killed upon one of the streets which Chicago has extended into the territory. About the details of the homicide the stories conflict. Each side claims to have acted in self-defense. The land in question is about 160 acres in area and is estimated to be worth \$5,000,000.

Further progress has been made in the revision of the Presbyterian creed, the committee appointed by the General Assembly of that church (p. 123) having agreed upon a report, as to some of the points. The following authoritative statement was given out on the 8th by the secretary of the committee, the Rev. Dr. W. H. Roberts:

The committee decided upon a form of declaratory statement in the third chapter of the Confession of Faith, declaring that the doctrine of predestination is held in harmony with God's love for all mankind, and that no man is condemned except on the ground of his sin. It also adopted a declaratory statement on the phrase that "elect