

tioned the international arbitration court to convene and arbitrate the issues involved in the South African war.

Coming back to American affairs, the Cuban controversy looms up again in consequence of the explanations of the Platt amendment which the Cuban convention inserted in their acceptance of it, as stated last week. These explanations the president declines to reaffirm. The matter came before a cabinet meeting at Washington on the 31st, at the close of which Secretary Root cabled to Gen. Wood that the president and cabinet decline to accept the Cuban constitution; that the declination applies to every part of the instrument as well as to the Platt amendment part; that the convention must reassemble and adopt the Platt amendment in its exact form as it passed congress and without interpreting clauses; and that the establishment of the Cuban republic and the evacuation of the island by United States troops will be delayed until the terms fixed by congress are accepted. A written statement to the same effect was mailed to Gen. Wood on the 2d. Havana dispatches of the 5th tell of a secret meeting of the convention on the 4th, at which it was tentatively decided to reaffirm the previous decision of the convention after Secretary Root's written refusal to accept it shall have been received.

There is an unexpected turn in the Tillman-McLaurin senatorial contest in South Carolina, reported at page 123 last week. Senator Tillman, it will be recalled, had denounced Senator McLaurin as a republican. When McLaurin resented this, saying he was as he had always been a representative of South Carolina democracy, Tillman challenged him to resign and go before the people. "If you are a democrat," said Tillman, "I am not," and "if the people reelect you I will take it as notice that they don't want me." McLaurin responded that in challenging him to resign Tillman had been careful not to resign himself, whereupon Tillman challenged McLaurin to a joint resignation. This was at a meeting at Gaffney, on the 25th, where McLaurin had been advocating imperialism. The immediate result was the joint resignation reported last week. But when this resignation reached Gov. McSweeney, he returned it, urging the two senators to reconsider, and warning them

that if they did not he would not call democratic primaries to secure a popular expression on the senatorship, as they requested, but would appoint other men to fill the vacancies. McLaurin promptly withdrew his resignation, saying:

For the sake of the peace, prosperity and happiness of the people of this state I am willing to hold to my commission as United States senator and to continue to serve as I have done in the past to the best of my ability.

Prior to learning of McLaurin's individual withdrawal of his name from the joint resignation, Senator Tillman wrote the governor protesting against his interference with a popular expression of opinion upon the vital questions upon which Senator McLaurin votes in the senate with the republicans. He said:

You declare the people are entitled to at least one year's freedom from political battles and bitterness. That is very desirable, but our race has ever thought war preferable to dishonor. What you consider a calamity would be hailed by thousands as an opportunity to get rid of a traitor who now disgraces the commonwealth. The session of congress beginning next December marks an era in the history of our republic, and the patriots who will then and there inaugurate a struggle for the restoration of our free institutions will need every voice and every vote that can be had. The fact that the republicans have a good majority in the senate does not alter the case in the least. The recent decision in the supreme court promulgating the damnable doctrine that this republic, whose bedrock principle is the "consent of the governed," can acquire by conquest or purchase territories and peoples, to be controlled and taxed without representation through congressional absolutism, must be met and plans must be laid for the battle to the death. Yet with such a crisis on hand the governor of this grand old state appears willing to have the state misrepresented and its voice silenced because its two senators stand on opposite sides of the question. I claim to represent the people. The result of the Gaffney meeting has brought Senator McLaurin within reach of his constituents. There is nothing personal in my feelings toward Senator McLaurin. I speak bluntly because I have taught myself to call things by their names. Material prosperity and progress may be worth more than strict adherence to principles and loyalty, but I cannot see it in that light. Holding this view, I decline, for

the present, to withdraw my resignation. It was tendered to obtain the resignation of Senator McLaurin and will not be withdrawn till he has shown his unwillingness to let our people pass on his conduct this year instead of next.

But McLaurin's subsequent withdrawal left Tillman no alternative, and, repeating that he had "no other motive or purpose in resigning except to force McLaurin," he reluctantly accepted the situation and withdrew his own resignation.

In view of the great machinists' strike for a nine-hour day with undiminished wages, which began on the 20th of May (page 105), the annual convention of the International Association of Machinists, which met at Toronto on the 3d, is of special importance. In referring to the strike, President James O'Connell, in his annual address, indicated the policy of the organization. It is to concentrate all the energies of the trade upon manufacturing establishments for the present, but to extend the strike to railways at an opportune time. Mr. O'Connell said:

Machinists employed in the railway service have been more than anxious to take part in the movement begun on May 20, but we have felt that many roads could not be sufficiently prepared by that date, and have advised against such a move, except in special cases. Great progress has been made for the last three months by our organization with the railway machinists, and I recommend that a date be set for the inauguration of the nine-hour day for machinists employed in the railway service.

NEWS NOTES.

—The Hall of Fame at New York was formally dedicated on the 3d.

—President and Mrs. McKinley reached Washington from San Francisco on the 3d.

—The sixth annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers met at Detroit on the 4th.

—The Ohio democratic convention is called to meet at Columbus on the 9th and 10th of July. Charles P. Salen, director of public works of Cleveland, has been selected as temporary chairman.

—At the International Miners' congress, in session at London, a resolution inviting the United Mine Workers of America to become members and to send delegates to the annual meetings was adopted on the 29th.

—The National Association of Railroad Commissioners met at San Fran-