

followed by recommendations for liberal pensions and the maintenance of the efficiency of the civil service, together with an objection to the attempts in the south to nullify the fifteenth amendment and a declaration approving the rural free delivery postal service and the irrigation of arid lands. Early statehood is promised New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma; and the construction, ownership, control and protection of an isthmian canal by the government are urged. A new cabinet office is proposed, to have charge of commercial affairs, including the consular system. Hawaiian annexation, the Samoan arrangement, and the part taken by the government in the Hague peace conference are approved; while the president is commended for offering friendly services in settlement of the British war in South Africa, and hopes of an honorable peace are expressed. The platform closes with a presentation of the question of expansion. In this respect it rests the obligations of the government upon the necessity of destroying Spain's sovereignty throughout the West Indies and in the Philippine islands. And promising to secure to the Filipinos by law "the largest measure of self government consistent with their welfare and our duties," the platform guarantees the performance to the letter of the pledge of independence and self government made by the United States to Cuba.

It had long been a foregone conclusion that President McKinley would be the unanimous nominee of the republican convention for president, and the only nominating contest was over the vice presidency. For this place Gov. Roosevelt was supported by Senator Thomas C. Platt, the manager of republican politics in New York, and by Senator Quay, the manager in Pennsylvania. He was opposed by Senator Hanna, Mr. McKinley's manager, and was not himself a candidate. Though he refused to declare that he would decline if nominated, he insisted that he could serve both his party and the country better by becoming a candidate for reelection as governor of New York. Besides Roosevelt, the leading possibilities in advance of the convention were Congressman Dolliver, Secretary Long, Lieut. Gov. Woodruff, of New York, and Secretary Bliss. But before the making of nominations, which were delayed until the 21st, Mr. Hanna had acquiesced in Roosevelt's nomination; and the close of the convention saw McKinley and Roosevelt nominated by acclamation.

Democratic politics were comparatively quiescent upon the eve of the republican convention and during its sessions. But as the Ohio convention on the 13th, and the conventions of Missouri, Kentucky, Vermont, Georgia and California on the 15th instructed for Bryan, the two-thirds vote necessary to nominate him for president is now assured.

Down in Cuba the first popular elections since the Spanish regime took place on the 16th under American direction. These elections had been postponed from May, when they were originally to have been held. Their object was the choice of mayor, municipal councils, treasurers, municipal judges and correctional judges, for the 200 municipalities, or thereabouts, into which Cuba is districted. Some of these municipalities are cities and some are townships, but the scheme of government is the same for all. The suffrage was limited, by American military order, to males 21 years of age—Spanish subjects excluded—who can read and write, or who own \$250 worth of property, or who served in the Cuban army. In preparation for the election political parties formed. They differed somewhat in character and purpose in different localities, but upon the whole they might be classified as the republican party and the national party. The republican party stands for a federation of the provinces, and is in some economic matters disposed to be radical. It offers a complete programme of government. While supporting independence for the island, it does not push that question to the front. The national party stands for making of Cuba a compact nation, and emphasizes the demand for early independence. Gen. Gomez is identified with this party. When the elections came off perfect order prevailed throughout the island. In Havana the nationalists elected their entire ticket. Gen. Alejandro Rodriguez, their candidate for mayor received 13,073 votes, against 6,034 for his adversary. Cubans point to these elections as a demonstration of their ability to regulate their own affairs in orderly fashion, and of the sentiment of a majority among them in favor of absolute independence.

From the Philippines there is but little news. American scouting is evidently going on, and Americans are killing and being killed. The latest reports give the casualties for the

week ending the 17th as 60 Filipinos killed and 200 captured, and three Americans killed. Great expectations are based upon the promulgation to be made on the 21st, of President McKinley's proclamation of amnesty, wherein he offers a free pardon to all Filipinos (ladrones excepted) who will take the oath of allegiance to the United States and acknowledge the sovereignty of its government. The proclamation has not yet been made public as we write.

American casualties in the Philippines since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in detail at Washington to May 30, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900, (see page 91)	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900,	15
Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900,	69
Total deaths since July 1, 1898.....	1,931
Wounded	2,168
Total casualties since July, 1898.....	4,099
Total casualties reported last week	4,079
Total deaths reported last week.....	1,927

Though news from the American war in the Philippines is meager, that is not altogether so of the war in South Africa. On the 20th a force of Boers was reported as gathering in front of Gen. Rundle, in the region of Ficksburg, which is in the Orange Free State near the Basutoland border and almost due east from Brandfort. Gen. Rundle commands the right wing of Lord Roberts's army of invasion. This move on the part of the Boers was preceded, according to reports, by an attack upon Rundle's outposts. But there are no further details.

A battle was supposed, at the time of our last report, to have been in progress on the 11th, about 15 miles east of Pretoria, on the Middleburg road. The next news from that point came from Lord Roberts, under date of the 13th. He said that during the preceding night the Boers, who were under command of Botha, had evacuated their position and retired farther east. The fighting had lasted all through the 12th. It was a battle altogether of 30 hours, at the end of which time the Boers effected a retreat with all their equipment. In this battle the Boers successfully met Lord Roberts's flank attacks; but to do so