

merce and industries," the head of which shall be a member of the president's cabinet. (2) That a reciprocity commission be created as a bureau part of this new department.

The Philippine situation carries us from a contemplation of the question of commercial warfare at our national capital to that of sanguinary warfare in our oriental "possessions." Two engagements are reported for the week. One occurred on Bohol island, where the Americans captured a strongly fortified stockade by scaling a precipice in the rear and surprising the garrison, which in escaping was exposed to a destructive fire from another American force. The other engagement took place in Luzon, not far from Cavite. As usual, the Filipinos were put to flight. Another strong force of Filipinos has been discovered in Laguna province, Luzon, under command of Gen. Caballas. The force includes several American Negroes. Reports from Samar are to the effect that although no surrenders in large numbers have been made, the inhabitants are evidently suffering severely from hunger. American gunboats with searchlights guard the island coasts so closely that it is almost impossible to land any food.

Aguinaldo is reported to have requested Gen. Chaffee, the American military governor of the Philippines, to allow him to go to the United States this winter and explain the desires of the Filipino people to congress. He asks also that eight friends, four of whom are prisoners at Guam and four are prominent citizens of Manila, be allowed to accompany him. No response to this request is yet announced.

From South Africa, only one notable engagement between British and Boers is reported. It took place on the 20th, and was not reported by Lord Kitchener until the 23d. British troops had been sent to occupy a ridge on the Sandspruit, near Villiersdorp, in the northwestern part of the Orange Free State. This force was attacked by a body of Boers, who, in the resulting battle, secured a lodgement on the ridge. The British major in command and one of his captains were dangerously wounded, and 350 British troops were made prisoners. Lord Kitchener's dispatch adds that another British force came up in time to release the prisoners, and that it at the same time captured a Boer

commandant, Uys, who had been wounded.

Perhaps the most important of recent developments with reference to the Boer war is the anti-British excitement which has broken out in Germany. Its immediate cause is a speech made at Edinburgh not long ago by Mr. Chamberlain, in the course of which he said that the methods of British warfare in South Africa, to which exception had been taken, are justified by precedents set by the Germans in their war of 1871 with France. This has been treated in Germany as an accusation by a British cabinet officer of German barbarity, and tremendous popular indignation has been aroused in Germany in consequence. Mr. Chamberlain has explained in an open letter that "no sensible German" could be affronted by his justification of British methods in the Transvaal, for he "did not mean that the severity of the Germans went beyond what was just and necessary," but that "what was just and proper for Germany could not be barbarous and inhuman on the part of Great Britain." This explanation, however, has not allayed the excitement in Germany, which is described with evident accuracy in some of the dispatches, as similar to the feeling in the United States prior to the war with Spain, and liable likewise to become inflammatory upon the slightest provocation. The London Post's correspondent at Berlin regards the situation as serious. He warns the British people not to be misled into supposing that the German demonstrations are artificial. They have been practically spontaneous, he says, and—

reflect the feeling of aversion and hatred with which an overwhelming majority of the German nation regards the war and the British people.

Before returning to our side of the Atlantic, our attention is demanded by a ministerial crisis in Greece, growing out of rioting at Athens. The riots broke out on the 21st. They had their origin in an attempt of the queen to have the gospels translated into modern Greek for common as distinguished from ecclesiastical use. During the war with Turkey, wounded Greek soldiers to whom she gave testaments told her they could not read them because they did not understand the old Greek text. She consequently arranged for a modern translation, and in this enterprise she was seconded by the premier, M. The-

okotis. The innovation was not approved by the Holy Synod of the Greek church, and was resented by the students of the Athens university, who called a public indignation meeting, which assembled on the 21st around the ruins of the temple of Jupiter Olympus. Resolutions were adopted at this meeting calling on the Holy Synod to excommunicate any person who should translate the gospels into modern Greek. A force of marines, 800 strong, was landed to preserve order, and as the meeting broke up it came into collision with this force. Seven persons were killed and 37 seriously wounded. This disturbance lasted only for the day, the city resuming its normal condition during the night; but the students secured possession of the university buildings, which they refused to relinquish except upon terms. When the rector, with 30 professors, endeavored on the 22d to persuade them to leave, they declined to do so unless given guarantees that no legal proceedings would be taken against them, that the translators of the gospels would be excommunicated, and that the university would not be occupied by troops. At the meeting of the chamber of deputies on the same day, a rancorous debate began, a disposition being manifest to hold the ministry responsible for the deaths of the day before. As the debate went on through the 23d, vast and noisy crowds surrounded the chamber, but they were soon dispersed by the military. Finally a motion approving the action of the government was adopted by a vote of 107 to 87. Notwithstanding this vote, however, and the entreaties of the king, the ministry of M. Theokotis resigned on the 24th. The reason assigned is that as a judicial inquiry has been ordered, the ministry thought it proper that the investigation should be carried on under a ministry which could not be charged with being interested in the result. M. Zaimais, a former premier, was named to organize the new ministry, which he succeeded in doing.

Returning now to the American side of the Atlantic, we are confronted with further developments in the civil war in Colombia. References to this rebellion in connection with a similar rebellion in Venezuela, and the delicate relations existing in consequence between the two countries, have been made in these columns at pages 280, 298, 312, 330, 344, 362, 376 and 411.