

Free state in which Lord Roberts is endeavoring to surround the Boer forces. Only one of these engagements appears, however, to have been at all important. This is described as a fierce battle. It occurred at Bethlehem, the western terminus of the railway leading to Ladysmith. The British general, Clement, upon nearing Bethlehem on the 6th, demanded its surrender. Gen. Dewet, commanding the Boers, returned a negative answer; whereupon Gen. Paget, with a British force, made a wide turning movement and secured possession of a point where he commanded the town. From this point the final attack was begun on the 7th at daylight. It was stubbornly resisted until noon, when the British won the battle and entered the town, while the Boers made good their retreat.

The Boer envoys—Fischer, Wolmerans and Wessels—whose departure from the United States was noted last week at page 200, arrived in Paris on the 6th, where they were welcomed by numerous delegations carrying Boer flags. On the 10th they were officially received by M. Delcasse, the French minister of foreign affairs; but M. Delcasse, though cordial in the reception he tendered, refused to allow the envoys to offer an appeal for their cause. After making a formal call upon the premier, Waldeck-Rousseau, who did not receive them, the envoys attended a hearty reception given by the president of the Paris council and a majority of the councilmen. The president delivered an address, in which he assured the envoys of the sympathy of the French people.

The French chamber of delegates and the senate, on the day of this reception to the Boer envoys, adjourned for the summer vacation. In the chamber of delegates the proceedings preliminary to adjournment were attended with disorderly scenes, brought on by an interchange of angry expressions between nationalists and republicans. The ministry had, five days previously, secured a vote of confidence—164 to 91—on a question relating to army organization.

From the native war against the British in Ashanti, accounts of which have been heretofore given at pages 71, 93, 152 and 170, the latest news is to the effect that the British governor, Sir Frederick M. Hodgson, has

succeeded in escaping from Coomassie. This town, the capital of Ashanti, had been so closely invested by armed natives that runners could not get through, and the British relief force under Col. Willcocks had been repulsed upon attacking them. A second advance was made on the 24th, and sharp fighting was reported on the 28th as having occurred on the 26th. On the 5th advices were received in London from Col. Willcocks, under date of the 4th at Fum-su, that Gov. Hodgson had effected his escape from Coomassie. The same dispatch told of the arrival on the 1st of Col. Burroughs, with a British force of 400 native soldiers, at Domposi. A dispatch subsequently received from Gov. Hodgson himself, but dated June 26, explained his departure from Coomassie. He had decided to push through the great body of natives surrounding the place, because the food supply had been reduced and the relief expedition had not arrived, and by deceiving the natives as to his route, he succeeded in reaching Atekwanta with a loss of six killed and several wounded. His retreating column numbered 400, and included all the Europeans domiciled at Coomassie. The deaths from starvation at the time of his departure numbered 30 a day.

Labor questions are forced again to the front by the revival this week of the St. Louis street car strike. The last reference that we made to this strike, as a matter of news, will be found at page 153. Earlier reports appear at pages 71, 93, 105, 122 and 136. The strike began in May. It was precipitated by the combined street car systems of St. Louis. All the lines except one had by corrupt methods acquired authority from both the city and the state to consolidate. As soon as this authority had been given, the consolidated companies watered their stock heavily, and, besides economizing in service, began a secret movement against the organization of their employes. The employes met this covert attack by a sudden general strike, which tied up all the lines. Their chief demand was for recognition of the organization. The suburban line, not being in the consolidated system, speedily settled upon the employes' terms; but the consolidated lines continued their resistance, determined, above everything else, to ignore the employes' organization. Considerable rioting attended the progress of the

strike, and several lives were lost; but the violence was greatly exaggerated by the reports of the local press, with the evident purpose of forcing the governor to order out troops. The consolidated street car companies were urgent that he should do this, but he refused on the ground that the lawlessness was not beyond the control of the civil authorities. As a substitute for troops, therefore, the sheriff organized a posse comitatus upon a military basis and with military weapons. It was composed largely of "strenuous" young men who seem, from what followed, to have enjoyed the opportunity offered them of killing people. The most deadly collision of the whole strike consisted of an assault by this posse upon a body of strikers, who, in returning from a picnic, foolishly passed in front of the "barracks" of the posse. Excited by the fact that an unknown person, afterward found to be not a striker, threw a stone through a window as the strikers passed, the posse fired into the crowd of strikers, killing some and wounding others. Responsibility for this homicide has been placed by a coroner's jury upon the posse. On the 2d, after the strike had lasted 56 days, it was settled by mutual agreement made in writing and signed by representatives of the consolidated companies and by the executive committee of the strikers.

Under this agreement the rates of pay and hours of service of March 10, 1900, were to be continued; no discrimination was to be made for or against union men; coercion by one employe of another was to be sufficient ground for immediate discharge; attempts by any official of the companies to influence employes to join or not to join the union was to be cause for his discharge; the companies were to receive committees of the employes' organization and confer with them upon matters of mutual interests; and for the purpose of filling vacancies, the committee of former employes was to—

prepare a list of the men who were in the company's service May 7 last, and as the company now or hereafter needs additional men, it will select them exclusively from this list until it is exhausted, not interfering, however, with men now in the service. No person shall be eligible to this list who has been guilty of any act of lawlessness or violence

Upon the execution of the agreement the strike was declared off. But the peace lasted only six days. On the

8th steps were taken by the employes to renew the strike, on the ground that the companies were guilty of bad faith in regard to filling vacancies with union men, as required by the clause of the agreement quoted above. The companies explain this accusation by saying that of the men to whom objection is made, one had never left the companies' employment, two had been engaged before the agreement, but did not report until afterward, one had been employed in violation of the agreement and would be dropped, and the rest were strikers who applied for work before the strikers' committee had presented its list under the agreement. The companies also offered to submit the difference to their own and the strikers' lawyers for decision. This offer was not accepted, nor was the companies' explanation satisfactory, and on the 9th the old employes, including those that had returned to work under the agreement, decided by unanimous vote in mass meeting to renew the strike. It was renewed accordingly on the 10th at daybreak.

Another gigantic strike, which attracts less attention than that of St. Louis, because it has been for several weeks free from sensational incidents, is the building trades strike of Chicago, which involves 30,000 men, and has been in progress for five months. It began on the 5th of February. The character of this strike was described in the volume of the Public preceding this (No. 102, page 9), where it was explained that it is in fact not a strike, but a lockout of union workmen by an employers' organization, and that the interests in conflict are tripartite. The workmen are represented by the Building Trades council, the contractors by the Master Builders association, and the material men by combinations of their own. Prior to the lockout these interests were bound to one another by agreement, so that only trust materials were used, only union labor was employed, and only the organized contractors were supplied with material or worked for. The quarrel originated in evasions by the contractors of union rules in dealing with their men. This provoked the unions to make oppressive rules, partly in retaliation and partly for protection, and to institute arbitrary sympathetic strikes. The quarrel culminated in the lockout by the contractors' organization, which demanded and continues to demand, as a sine qua

non, the dissolution of the workingmen's central body—the Building Trades council—and the abandonment of sympathetic strikes. Several attempts to settle the difficulty have been made and some conferences have been held, but without effective results. The contractors' organization absolutely refused on the 26th of June, after a conference, to deal with any labor union which retained its membership in the central organization. One of the results was the withdrawal of the bricklayers' and stonemasons' union from the central body. But no other unions have followed that example, and building operations in Chicago continue at a standstill.

NEWS NOTES.

Gen. Porfirio Diaz was once again reelected president of the republic of Mexico on the 9th without opposition.

—Rich anthracite coal fields have been discovered in southern Piedmont, the development of which is expected to become one of the most valuable of Italian industries.

—The National Educational association opened its annual convention at Charleston, S. C., on the 10th. Prominent educators from all sections of the country and several thousand delegates were present.

An exceedingly rich strike of gold-bearing quartz has been reported from Indian river, in the Klondike region, about 40 miles from Dawson City, and a large number of miners from Dawson have already located claims.

—The plant of Harper & Bros., with all the good will and publications of that famous publishing house, is to be sold August 9th under foreclosure. The entire business is now under the control of J. Pierpont Morgan.

—Dr. Henry Wade Rogers, who was recently compelled to resign the presidency of Northwestern university because of his anti-imperialistic views, has accepted an appointment by the trustees of Yale university to a professorship in the Yale law school.

—Cape Nome was placed under martial law on June 19, after a period of crime and violence during which the municipal government was helpless, owing to the congested condition of the beach with its 30,000 gold diggers. A company of soldiers is now on duty there.

—Four cases of leprosy have been discovered among members of the Idaho volunteers, returned from the Philippines, to which they were exposed while campaigning against the Filipinos over a year ago. No symp-

toms developed, however, until after their return home.

—Capt. Lake's submarine boat, the Argonaut, was given a successful trial at Bridgeport, Conn., on the 10th. With a party of 22 persons on board it remained submerged for a period of four hours. The Argonaut is not a war vessel, but is to be used to facilitate diving and wrecking operations.

—Jean Sipido, the young Belgian who made an attempt on the life of the prince of Wales and whose trial at Brussels was noted last week in these columns, was convicted by a jury on the 6th, but owing to his immaturity the court sentenced him merely to confinement in a reformatory until of age. Sipido has since escaped to Paris.

—For the fiscal year ending June 30 the United States treasury report of receipts and expenditures is as follows:

Receipts	\$568,435,832 21
Expenditures	487,759,171 98

Surplus	\$80,676,660 23
---------------	-----------------

—The official report of the cash in the United States treasury for June is as follows:

Gold reserve.....	\$150,000,000 00
Available cash balance..	155,705,654 78

Total cash balance...	\$305,705,654 78
On hand July 1, 1899..	281,380,468 73

Increase since June 30,	
1899	\$24,325,186 05

MISCELLANY

USEFUL AND USELESS.

For The Public.

The tiller of the soil, the toiler for his bread,

These are in duty's way, whatever may be said.

But, who pretend to sell the right to use this earth—

What to the commonwealth of men are these men worth?

S. BRAZIER.

AMERICAN PATRIOTISM.

Patriotism is love of country; and the bigger and richer the country you have to love, the bigger and richer the patriotism. The only real, A No. 1 brand of patriotism on earth is found in America. It's great stuff. Patriotism is a passion which induces hot youth to rush forth to get shot and half shot, while sober, conservative age waves the flag and corrals the contractors. One is a subtle instinct, the other a sutler. Patriotism is a noble thing all around and a useful adjunct to business. The flavor of patriotism depends upon its habitat. When those