

Wounded since July 1, 1898.....2,434

Total casualties since July, '98...5,110  
Total casualties to last report....5,105  
Total deaths to last report.....2,672  
Total wounded to last report.....2,433

British conquest in South Africa remains much less satisfactory than American conquest in the Philippines, to the conquering power. Guerrilla warfare continues, but the reports throw very little light upon it. The only conclusion warranted by them is that "the country is not yet pacified."

But Sir Alfred Milner, the lord high commissioner, who, as governor of Cape Colony, carried on the futile negotiations with President Kruger which preceded the war, has been rewarded with elevation to the British peerage. He arrived in England on the 24th and was made a peer on the same day. His title is Baron Milner of St. James in the county of London and of Cape Town in the colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

The British budget, which passed second reading by 236 to 132 in the house of commons on the 23d, called out a great speech against the war from John Morley, who had not been able to speak before for months, owing to weakness of voice. He was obliged for this reason to be silent even during the parliamentary campaign last fall.

In the United States the most important distinctively political event of the week is the resignation of Senators Tillman and McLaurin. Both profess allegiance to the democratic party. Tillman had six years yet to serve in the senate, and McLaurin had two. They were engaged in a public debate at Gaffney, S. C., on the 25th, when Tillman charged that McLaurin was not a democrat. McLaurin resenting the charge, Tillman challenged him to resign:

Let McLaurin resign and go before the democratic primaries this year, and I'll go home and keep my mouth shut and let the other fellows attend to him. If you elect him I will take it as notice that you don't want me. If he is a democrat, then I'm not.

This challenge resulted in the joint resignation of both senators, to take effect September 15.

Among the many conventions—political, sociological, religious, eco-

nomie, etc., now assembling in different parts of the country, one of exceptional importance was the taxation conference of the National Civic Federation, which met in Buffalo on the 23d and remained in session three days. It was the first of its kind. Frederick M. Judson, of St. Louis, presided, and Ralph M. Easley, secretary of the federation, and the person chiefly instrumental in organizing the conference, was elected secretary. The first paper was read by Prof. Edwin R. Seligman, of Columbia university, who described the inequalities in practical operation of the general property tax. James R. Garfield, of Cleveland, a son of President Garfield, followed with one explaining and condemning the tax inquisition law of Ohio. A paper in opposition to taxing banking interests more than other property was presented by Charles S. Fairchild, formerly secretary of the treasury. Among other papers was one by Allen R. Foote, editor of Public Policy, Chicago, on the taxation of public service corporations; and one by Frederick N. Judson in opposition to taxing mortgages. Lawson Purdy, of New York, advocated local option in taxation; and Senator Bucklin, of Colorado, an appointee of the governor as delegate to the conference, made an exposition of the Australasian tax laws with especial reference to the probability of their adoption, in principle, by Colorado. Before adjourning the conference resolved that—

a permanent organization be effected for the promotion of interstate comity in taxation and of tax reform in general; and, to that end, that a committee of fifteen be appointed by the chair to act as an executive committee until another meeting of the conference; and that the executive committee be authorized to select a general committee of 100, with at least 1 member from each state.

It resolved, also, to recommend—

to the states the recognition and enforcement of the principles of interstate comity in taxation. These principles require that the same property should not be taxed at the same time by two state jurisdictions, and to this end that, if the title deeds or other paper evidences of the ownership of property or of an interest in property are taxed, they shall be taxed at the situs of the property and not elsewhere. These principles should also be applied to any tax upon the transfer of property in expectation of death or by will or under the laws

regulating the distribution of property in case of intestacy.

It further resolved that—

the state and local revenues should be so separated as to methods and subjects of taxation as to give to the counties and municipalities the largest powers of local option in taxation.

Another gathering, a religious body in this case, stands out prominently in the news of the week because it has been going through the throes of trying to change its ancient creed without appearing too pointedly to have done so. This is the general assembly of the Presbyterian church, convened at Philadelphia. The debate over revision of the Westminster creed began on the 23d, and continued until the 27th. Meanwhile two decisive votes were taken. One was a refusal to dismiss the subject of revision; the other was a clear expression of opinion in favor of the preparation of a statement of the creed for popular use. The final vote, taken on the 27th, adopted the following recommendations with virtual unanimity—640 yeas:

A. We recommend that a committee, as provided for by the form of government, chapter xxiii., section 3, be appointed by this assembly.

B. We recommend that this committee be instructed to prepare and to submit to the next general assembly for such disposition as may be judged to be wise, a brief statement of the reformed faith, expressed, as far as possible, in untechnical terms. The said statement is to be prepared with a view to its being employed to give information and a better understanding of our doctrinal beliefs, and not with a view to its becoming a substitute for or an alternative of our confession of faith.

C. We further recommend that this committee be instructed to prepare amendments of chapter iii., chapter x., section 3; chapter xvi., section 7; chapter xxii., section 3, and chapter xxv., section 6, of our confession of faith, either by modification of the text or by declaratory statement, but so far as possible by declaratory statement, so as more clearly to express the mind of the church, with additional statements concerning the love of God for all men, missions and the Holy Spirit. It being understood that the revision shall in no way impair the integrity of the system of doctrine set forth in our confession and taught in the holy scriptures.