

Coming eastward from our restless "new possessions" in the orient, we are met with news of the first American election in the new territory of Hawaii. Reports of the result reached San Francisco on the 16th. There were three parties in the field—the republican, the democratic and the independent. The former two are branches of the republican and the democratic parties, respectively, of the United States; the third is the native anti-white party. Each party voted for a delegate to congress, and for a full territorial legislative ticket. The campaign was intensely exciting and bitter. There were registered in the island of Hawaii 2,717 voters; in Maui, 2,058; in Oahua, 5,704, and in Kauai, 739—a total of 11,218, which is 3,000 less than the last registration under the monarchy. The full vote is yet to be reported, but the news reaching San Francisco on the 16th, seven days from Honolulu, is sufficiently full to indicate results. Robert W. Wilcox, the independent candidate for territorial delegate to congress, has been elected over Prince David (Kawananakoa) the democratic candidate, and Samuel Parker, the republican. Wilcox, who is 45 years old, is the son of an American sea captain and a native woman. He had a boarding school education in Maui, supplemented with study in an Italian military school, and at the age of 25 was a member of the Maui legislature. In the stirring events connected with the overthrow of the native monarchy and the subsequent revolt against the foreign regime, he took an active, prominent and dangerous part in behalf of the monarchy. Mr. Wilcox was originally married in Italy to a daughter of the Italian Baron Lorenzo Sobrero, from whom he has been separated since 1898. Having been notified by the Italian consul at Honolulu in 1896 that a decree of divorce for which he had applied in Italy was granted, he married a descendant of the father of King Kamehameha the Great. His election was opposed on the ground that no decree of divorce had in fact been granted, and it is now declared by his enemies that an attempt to unseat him upon charges of bigamy will be made at Washington. Besides electing Wilcox, the independent or native party have secured a majority of one in the territorial senate, and of five in the territorial house.

Reports from the Puerto Rican elec-

tions, received since those given on page 487, show that the total vote was, in round numbers, only 58,000, and that nearly all of them were cast by the republican party, which is the old party of independence. The federal party leaders advised their followers not to vote, and only 150 disregarded the advice. The reason given for this refusal to participate in the election was that the federals had not been offered a chance to register, that districts had been gerrymandered, and that discriminations had been made against them in the appointment of election judges. In consequence of this election all the 35 members of the house of delegates in Puerto Rico—the only popular body under the act of congress, and a body which can enact no legislation without the consent of the governor and council, appointed by the American president—will be republicans. The commissioner to congress is Frederico Degetan, an author, scientist and lawyer, who has been prominent for nearly 20 years in agitations for Puerto Rican independence.

The Cubans have now received the most direct assurance of independence that has yet come to them. The American secretary of War, Mr. Root, who has for several days been in Cuba, ostensibly upon a pleasure trip, declared on the 20th that he was there officially, and guaranteed a complete fulfillment of the American pledges. The occasion was a luncheon on board the steamer *Reina de Los Angeles*, in Santiago harbor. Root was a guest of Menendez & Co., on board the steamer, and in response to a luncheon toast he said:

I am visiting Cuba as the representative of President McKinley to investigate as to the inhabitants' ability to govern themselves. I had come to imagine that the Cubans were only partly civilized. I am agreeably surprised to find an enlightened people. I desire to renew assurances of the good faith of the United States government, which will fulfill its promises, and I expect soon to see a free, self-governing republic in Cuba.

Mr. Root's acknowledgment that although upon investigation he finds the Cubans to be an enlightened people, he, the American secretary of war, had previously imagined them to be "only partly civilized," raises a serious question as to the value of the information with which the war department is supplied regarding the

peoples it has been called upon temporarily to govern.

In the United States proper another stunning exemplification of the theory that our civilization is only skin deep has been furnished in Colorado. A 16-year-old negro, Preston Porter, Jr., accused of having assaulted and murdered a white girl of 11, was lynched and burned to death, without any attempt on the part of public officials to interfere. The boy's crime had been committed at Limon, Lincoln county. He was arrested in Denver and there lodged in jail. During the night of the 16th the sheriff took him in a closed carriage to Magnolia, a railroad station east of Denver, where he delivered him to the sheriff of Lincoln county, who carried him to Limon. It was known all the time that at Limon the boy would be lynched; and, besides a crowd of reporters on their way to see the lynching, the father of the murdered girl was on the train with the sheriff and his prisoner. When the train arrived at Limon a committee from the lynchers came on board demanding the negro boy, and one of them threw a hangman's noose over his neck. The sheriff, who had apparently got possession of the prisoner for the purpose of delivering him to the mob, made no objection to the lawless proceedings and at a station three miles east of Limon the lynching party took their victim from the train. It was at first intended to hang him, but the father of the murdered girl protested against this, and at his suggestion burning at the stake was chosen instead. Preparations were accordingly made, and early in the evening of the 16th, the boy having meantime been chained to a railroad rail set firmly in the ground and surrounded with oil-saturated wood, a mob of 300 people or more lending encouragement, the girl's father kindled the fire. From this time on until unconsciousness had relieved him from pain, the negro boy's struggles and screams and appeals were indescribably terrible. Finally, as his body fell forward, boards were piled upon it by the mob, and what with the shock of the torture and suffocation from the smoke his voice was stilled and his body at length reduced to ashes. A local coroner's jury, committing deliberate perjury, returned a verdict that "death was at the hands of parties unknown."

At Denver on the 18th a mass meet-

ing was held to express the indignation of that city at the burning of Porter. Gov. Thomas was among the speakers. He censured not the murder of the negro boy, but the manner of it, explaining, however, that he did not intend to uphold lynch law, and assuring the audience that he had done all he could to prevent Porter's removal from Denver. Speaking of the probability of punishing the participants in the lynching, he said it would be as impossible to indict a whole county as a whole nation. No voice against the lynching was raised at the meeting, the criticisms being confined to the burning. Although clergymen and public officials were among the speakers, the opinion seemed to prevail that, as capital punishment is not imposed by law in Colorado for such crimes as Porter's, the lynching was justified. Resolutions were adopted censuring savagery.

Between this fiendish lynching of a negro boy in a Rocky mountain state and the operations of the British in the Transvaal there is great difference in point of distance, but not much in spirit. Unable to conquer the Boers in accordance with the ordinary rules of warfare, and encouraged by their return to power at the recent elections, the tory leaders have begun to turn over the direction of affairs to Gen. Kitchener, who has a reputation for human kindness not unlike that of Gen. Weyler's, whose reconcentrado methods he purposes to imitate. According to the *Natal Mercury* he has decided to "depopulate the towns in the Transvaal, owing to the difficulty in dealing with the republicans when hampered by the civilian population," which is understood in London to mean that he intends to concentrate the population of small towns in the large towns, and in other respects to pursue a reconcentrado policy. To facilitate him in this purpose, all the generals of higher rank than Kitchener are being sent home, and the newspaper correspondents are being forced out. Even now, before Kitchener has obtained full sway, the homes of Boers who are absent, presumably as fighting men, are being razed, their crops are destroyed, and the women and children of their families are driven into the nearest British garrison town.

This barbarous policy has been adopted because the British find

themselves unable to subdue the Boers by civilized methods. Though driven off when they attack, the Boer detachments keep up the war, appearing suddenly at unexpected points, tearing up railroads, engaging British garrisons, and disappearing, only to turn up as unexpectedly somewhere else, so that British authority in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, like American authority in the Philippines, extends no farther than the range of garrison guns. On the 19th one of these detachments surprised an outpost southwest of Balmoral, and drove out the garrison, after killing six, wounding five and capturing 20. It then abandoned the post and the British reoccupied it. That is a typical instance. The Boer commander, Dewett, is reported to have established a capital at Roesendal, north of Middleburg; and further reports from censored British sources are to the effect that he is meeting Kitchener's reconcentrado policy by forcing Boers who have surrendered and taken the British oath to resume their arms under pain of death.

No Chinese news of importance has been divulged since last week, except a Chinese imperial decree of the 13th, which deprives Prince Tuan and Prince Chwang of rank and office, and orders their imprisonment for life. This by way of punishment for their anti-foreign depredations, and instead of the death penalty which the allied powers have demanded. Similar punishment is by the same decree imposed upon eight others.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—After fierce opposition extending over five years, the French chamber of deputies on the 17th passed a bill admitting women to practice as lawyers in all the French courts.

—At a mass convention of socialists held in Chicago on the 18th plans were laid to unite all the socialist elements for political action in the mayoralty campaign next spring.

—The National Council of Women closed its sessions at Minneapolis on the 16th. During the convention the National Association of Colored Women was admitted to membership.

—A fleet of the largest ships in the world is being constructed by the Eastern Shipbuilding company at New London, Conn., for use by the Great Northern Railroad company in their oriental trade.

—Gold has been discovered in Indiana at Lynville, Warrick county, in

the southwestern part of the state, in consequence of which the population of Lynville increased from 500 to 1,200 during the past week.

—John D. Rockefeller on the 16th sold his entire fleet of whaleback ore carriers, the Bessemer Steamship company, to the Lake Superior Consolidated Iron company, in which corporation he is also interested.

—Telephoning without wires is the recent invention of a Minneapolis man. An experiment conducted under the supervision of the inventor, J. C. Kelsey, on the 18th showed much better results than the present system.

—A St. Louis judge holds that labor organizations have no right to impose fines upon their members for refusing to boycott firms or corporations coming under the displeasure of the union. The case arose out of the recent street railroad strike.

—Gov. Lind, of Minnesota, may contest the election of Samuel R. Van Zant, the republican governor-elect, who on the face of the returns has a plurality of 2,500. Numerous irregularities and errors have been discovered in the election counting.

—The Ibero-American congress, designed to bring into closer relationship the various Spanish-speaking countries (see page 505), completed its sessions at Madrid on the 15th. The creation of an international tribunal of arbitration was provided for.

—John Sherwin Crosby, the eloquent orator and well-known single tax advocate, is making up a lecture tour for the coming year, under the direction of H. C. S. Stimpson, 11 Pine street, New York. Mr. Crosby is unquestionably the best orator in the George movement.

—Charles H. Hoyt, the playwright, died at his home at Charlestown, N. H., on the 20th. Mr. Hoyt gave the American stage a large number of very bright farces, among the better known of which were the "Midnight Bell," "A Texas Steer" and "A Milk White Flag."

—Daniel Coit Gilman, president of Johns Hopkins university since its foundation in 1876, has announced his determination to resign at the end of the present scholastic year. Dr. Gilman's reasons for resigning are his advancing years and the belief that a younger man should take charge.

—The National Good Roads association closed the sessions of its most important and interesting convention at Central Music hall, Chicago, on the 21st and was followed on the same day by one of still greater importance—the National Irrigation congress, which opened with an attendance of more than 1,500 delegates.

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States for October, as given by the October treas-