

question, after which he takes up the Philippine question and devotes to it considerably more than half his letter. Here he gives in great detail so much of the history of the Philippine acquisition as he considers pertinent, from which he infers that there has been no time since the destruction of the Spanish fleet in Manila bay when we could or should have left the Philippine archipelago. To the criticism that there would have been no fighting in the Philippines "if congress had declared its purpose to give independence to the Tagal insurgents" he replies that—

the insurgents did not wait for the action of congress. They assumed the offensive, they opened fire on our army. Those who assert our responsibility for the beginning of the conflict have forgotten that before the treaty was ratified in the senate and while it was being debated in that body, and while the Bacon resolution was under discussion, on February 4, 1899, the insurgents attacked the American army, after being previously advised that the American forces were under orders not to fire upon them except in defense.

He also refers to papers since found in the Filipino archives as showing that "this attack had been planned for weeks," and concludes that—

their unprovoked assault upon our soldiers at a time when the senate was deliberating upon the treaty shows that no action on our part except surrender and abandonment would have prevented the fighting, and leaves no doubt in any fair mind of where the responsibility rests for the shedding of American blood.

The letter ends with a brief reference to the Chinese affair, preceded by an argument against the Philippine policy announced by Mr. Bryan in his Indianapolis acceptance speech, and in support of a continuance of the present policy.

Next in importance probably to Mr. McKinley's letter of acceptance is the state election in Maine. This event is of general interest, because the September elections in Maine, in presidential years, are regarded by politicians as indicative of the results to be expected throughout the country in November; not according to the way Maine goes, for the state always goes republican, but according to the size of the majority. When the campaign closed, on the 8th, the chairman of the republican state committee, J. H. Manley, issued a signed statement, in which, as published by

the Chicago Tribune, he predicted that—

the republicans will carry Maine on Monday next by a majority greater than they ever did in years since the party came into existence in 1856. The republicans will poll their full strength, and the vote will show no falling off on their part. The democratic vote will increase somewhat over the vote four years ago, when the party was paralyzed in this state, but it will not reach the average democratic vote for the last quarter of a century.

This prediction failed of verification. Though the full vote is not yet reported, it is evident that the democrats made large gains, while the republicans have suffered loss. The republican loss, as compared with the election of 1896, is estimated, upon the basis of the vote reported, at 11 per cent., and the democratic gain at 18.

Complete returns from the Vermont state election, held on the 4th and reported last week at page 345, are now available. They give the republican candidate for governor a plurality of 31,468, and a majority of 30,192. Following is a comparison of the vote with that of the three preceding gubernatorial elections:

Year.	Rep.	Dem.	Republican Plurality.
1900	48,466	16,998	31,468
1898	38,555	14,686	23,869
1896	53,246	14,855	38,391
1894	42,663	14,142	22,521

Thus the increase of the democratic vote as compared with that of the corresponding election four years ago is over 14 per cent., while the republican loss is nearly nine per cent.

Other political items relate to state conventions. Gov. Lind has been nominated by the democratic and the people's parties of Minnesota for reelection. The democratic, the silver republican and the people's party conventions of Colorado have made a fusion ticket. In New York the democratic convention met at New York city on the 11th, and on the 12th it nominated John B. Stanchfield for governor. This was a victory for Croker over Hill. The latter had pressed the nomination of Bird S. Coler, who got 154 votes to 294 for Stanchfield. The platform denounces trusts, and in the denunciation it includes specifically the Platt-republican ice trust of New York city, in which Tammany-democratic office holders became partners and were exposed by the New York Journal early in the summer.

Turning now from American politics to the news from China, it should be explained at the beginning, with reference to the Russian note abstracted in our last issue at page 344, that the publication by Russia of the full text of the note shows that Russia's proposal was to withdraw her minister and troops, not from China, as reported last week, but from Peking. Since then Russia has received replies from all the interested powers, other than the United States, whose reply was reported last week. France accepts the proposal without modification. This makes three nations that are willing to evacuate Peking immediately—France, Russia and the United States. The other five—Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and Austria—indicate their intention of remaining. Great Britain declares her purpose of doing so as long as may be necessary properly to protect British interests.

On the part of the old government of China there is manifest an earnest disposition to reestablish its sovereignty. To this end it has issued an imperial edict, dated August 24, which Li Hung Chang forwarded September 7 to the Chinese minister at Petersburg, who transmitted it through the various Chinese ministers to the powers on the 9th. It is as follows:

Li Hung Chang, envoy plenipotentiary, is hereby vested with full discretionary powers, and he shall promptly deal with whatever questions may require attention. From this distance we will not control his actions.

The purpose of Chang's appointment as envoy had already been disclosed by the following edict of August 19:

The Iho-chuan outlaws (Boxers) in their hatred of foreigners and Christians have attacked them at Taku and Tientsin. The allied forces have therefore taken Tientsin and Taku, and on the morning of August 15 attacked the imperial capital from the east and the Tung-chi and Chao-yang gates of the city were blown up by the Japanese. We therefore prepared the departure of the empress dowager for the west. We have repeatedly telegraphed to the foreign powers, remonstrating against the invasion of our kingdom. They have replied that they fight only against the Iho-chuan (Boxers) and their leaders are not in conflict with our government, showing that they are not unwilling to make peace. But, as all the ministers are safe in Peking, we hereby com-

mand Yang Lu Hsu Lung and Ching Yu to stay in Peking and arrange terms of peace. We also command Li Hung Chang, viceroy of Chi-li, who is our faithful and trusted officer and has the confidence of foreigners, to devise measures to bring about negotiations and telegraph to the secretaries of state of the various countries or consult the consuls general at Shanghai. We trust that Li Hung Chang will forward the cause of peace, thereby earning our thanks.

Notwithstanding these edicts, the powers distrust Chang's authority to negotiate peace on behalf of the empire. The views of the American government on that point were officially given on the 11th by the acting secretary of state, Mr. Hill, who in acknowledgment of the delivery by the Chinese minister at Washington of the notification of Chang's appointment returned this note:

The United States does not feel called upon to express any opinion at this time as to the sufficiency of Li Hung Chang's authority, but hopes it will transpire that his credentials are full and authoritative not only for negotiation, but to enable him without further delay to give assurance that the life and property of Americans will henceforth be respected throughout the Chinese empire.

The situation in South Africa is not substantially altered, although President Kruger is reported to have left the Transvaal and gone to Lorenzo Marques, and British dispatches again announce the war as in its last stages. The Boer force reported last week as holding the pass to Lydenburg has withdrawn farther north and east, and the British occupied Lydenburg on the 6th. Most of the stores of the retreating Boers were carried farther into the mountains to Krugerspost. But a stand was made at Spitzkop, east of Lydenburg, which the British captured after a sharp engagement on the 8th. The Boers retreated. Another force of Boers is still operating southwest of Pretoria. These two forces are evidently the same as those mentioned at page 313—Dewet's in the southwest and Botha's in the northeast. The report of Kruger's arrival at Lorenzo Marques, which is in Portuguese territory, came on the 13th by way of London. He is said to have been accompanied by part of his official staff and to have the Transvaal archives with him. The same dispatch, however, explains that he is on his way to Europe, upon a six

months' leave of absence, and that Shalk-Burger is to be acting president of the republic meanwhile.

From the Philippines there come through American sources no reports this week of fighting, except an official account of the engagement in Bohol, which was mentioned last week. Gen. MacArthur says that 1 American was killed and six wounded, and that a force of 120 Filipino bolomen were nearly annihilated, over 100 being killed. He adds that an American movement into the interior of the island is now in progress. From Filipino sources, however—through a letter from Agoncillo, the Philippine envoy, now in Paris—there comes a statement that—

The Philippines are not conquered as yet. The Americans capture a town to-day, and if they leave it its recapture becomes necessary within a week. Aguinaldo is as safe in his palace on the Island of Luzon as McKinley is in the white house.

A new epoch in polar exploration has been made by the Duke d' Abruzzi, a nephew of the late King Humbert of Italy, who is better known in Rome as Prince Louis of Italy. He sailed for the arctic regions June 12, 1899, on the "Stella Polare," and was first heard from, on his return, at Tromsø, Norway, September 6 of the present year. His party suffered severely, being driven to the extremity of killing their sledge dogs for food; and by the pressure of ice packs their vessel was badly damaged. But they got nearer to the north pole by 20 miles than any previous expedition. The nearest approach to the pole ever made before was by Nansen, who returned in 1896, after having left his vessel, the "Fram," at a point in 84 degrees, and traversed the sea to 86 degrees and 14 minutes—within 261 miles of the pole. The Duke d' Abruzzi navigated his vessel to 86 degrees and 33 minutes—within 241 miles of the pole.

The ordinary news of the time is varied this week by reports of a storm which for destructiveness to human life is more terrible than any other natural catastrophe in the history of the country. It reduced the city of Galveston to ruins, and killed thousands of the inhabitants. A hurricane struck the city about noon on the 8th, producing a flood which is described as having turned the city into a raging sea. At the same time

the wind, which had reached a velocity of 84 miles an hour when the measuring instrument blew away, played havoc with the stanchest buildings. The storm came from opposite directions—a fierce wind from the north blowing the waters of the bay into the streets where they met an enormously high tide blown up by a raging storm from the gulf. The waters of the bay and those of the gulf met about mid-afternoon, and flooding the lighting plants, left the city in darkness throughout the hours of the night during which the storm continued. The flood rose steadily until after midnight. The highest parts of the city were from four to five feet under water. Most of the streets were submerged to a depth of ten feet. When the waters had subsided hardly a habitable dry house was left, and dead bodies were found everywhere. The mayor announces his belief that 5,000 lives were lost. Later estimates put it as high as 8,000. On the 11th 2,300 bodies had been located and buried. Some of the dead had been drowned and others had been killed by crashing buildings. Ocean steamers had been torn from their moorings in the bay and stranded. At least 15,000 persons are believed to be homeless, and not less than 5,000 destitute. There is extreme suffering from lack of food, though the entire stock of food owned by local merchants has been "commandeered" by the committee of public safety. The suffering for want of drinking water is more severe, for the waterworks are ruined and the tank cisterns are either blown away or filled with sea water. The situation is growing worse hourly. Frenzied by their sufferings, scores have died, and many have gone insane. With all the rest, robbers have looted houses and mutilated bodies for plunder, for which 90 or more have been shot; and dead bodies in process of decomposition are necessarily buried in trenches or burned without identification. The probabilities are that the site of Galveston will not be occupied by a city again. An appeal for relief has been telegraphed over the country, and favorable responses are coming in. The federal government has forwarded 50,000 rations and 1,000 tents.

A catastrophe of another kind has been precipitated by the arrogant refusal of the great coal magnates of the anthracite regions of Pennsyl-