

The Public

istration, and to pass appropriation bills, and to set up local governments, and to grant franchises for the eight millions in the Philippines we may reasonably expect to evolve out of the scandals and embarrassments to result from its mistakes, either a "boss" or some other institution which shall be effective to carry through colonial bills. We can scarcely expect congress by itself, when it comes to legislate for colored men on the other side of the world, to show greater wisdom, solicitude and knowledge than it does when it legislates for its own constituents, or than it did when it once before tried to set up a government in a conquered territory, and reconstruct the southern states, or than has been shown by our state legislatures when dealing with matters affecting their own states. If we undertake to govern dependencies from Washington, either congress must become submissive to the executive, or absorb the executive by admitting cabinet officers to the floors of congress who will direct its deliberations and administer its laws in accordance with the will of the majority, or both branches must become the tools of a great party "boss."

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NEWS

Our report of the South African war closed last week with the announcement that Lord Roberts was making active preparations to withstand an investment at Bloemfontein. The Boers had a few days before won a victory at Koornspruit, not many miles east of Bloemfontein; had captured and were still in possession of the Bloemfontein water works; and were otherwise pressing upon the town from the south and east. This pressure has continued during the week now closing, causing the British to concentrate so as to be ready to face an attack from any direction; and some fighting has occurred.

One of the fights was a small affair at Boshof, a place in the Orange Free State a short distance to the northeast from Kimberley. A British force of nearly 700 surrounded a Boer force of 65, and after four hours' fighting killed 7, wounded 8, and captured the rest. Only three of the

prisoners were Boers; the others were uitlanders — Frenchmen, Germans and Russians. Among the killed was Gen. Villebois Mareuil, known as "the Lafayette of South Africa," a French officer who was the Boer chief of staff.

This British victory would have offset in some degree the stinging defeat of Koornspruit, reported last week; but it was itself more than offset by the capture, reported by Lord Roberts on the 5th, of three companies of the Royal Irish fusiliers and two companies of the 9th regiment of mounted infantry, at Reddersburg, by a supposedly superior but unknown Boer force. Reddersburg lies a little east of the railroad and as far south as Edenburg. Gen. Gatacre at once went to Reddersburg; but although he arrived within two hours after the fight, he could get no news either of the captured detachment or their captors.

On the 11th hard fighting was reported at Wepener, an Orange Free State point 45 miles directly south of Thaba N'chu, and on the border of Basutoland. Gen. Brabant commands a British force of from 2,000 to 3,000 at Wepener. As early as the 6th the Boers were observed to be gathering in force, and owing to the bad condition of Brabant's horses it was believed that he would have to act strictly upon the defensive. Surrender of the place was demanded on the 7th, and on the 8th the garrison was reported as isolated. The Boers had invested it on the three Orange Free State sides. On the same day the attack began and the battle was still under way on the 11th, when the last report from Wepener was received.

From Boer sources on the 11th there came reports of hard fighting and a Boer victory at a place called Meerkatsfontein, in which the British lost 600 in killed and 900 in prisoners. The British war office neither confirms nor denies this report. That, however, is not significant, as the censorship has again become very strict. But there are reasons for suspecting that the report is the Boer version of the Reddersburg affair, in which the Irish fusiliers were captured.

By reference to a map of the Orange Free State, it will be readily seen that these Boer movements are

of a highly threatening character to the British position at Bloemfontein. The Boers appear to have extended a broken line of mobile troops in a semi-circle eastward around Bloemfontein from Brandfort in the north to the neighborhood of Reddersburg in the south, where they threaten Roberts' communications; and the reports show that virtually all the Free State east of the railroad, where the British were but recently in control, is now dominated by Boers. Meanwhile Roberts is unable to move. He ruined his horses in the chase after Cronje, and has not yet received fresh ones. He is also suffering for want of warm clothing for his men. The winter is coming upon him, and his men have only the thin khaki uniforms that have served them during the summer. In London the predictions that Pretoria would be taken by May have been withdrawn, and gloom has succeeded enthusiasm.

Mafeking is still unrelieved, and fighting in that region continues. Lord Methuen has moved from Kimberley to the relief of Mafeking with the main body under his command. But nothing has been heard of his progress. The capture of a Boer detachment at Boshof, described above, may have been made in this connection. Belated British reports say that Col. Plumer, with a relief expedition from the north, came within six miles of Mafeking on the 31st, but in a battle between Ramathlabama and Mafeking was driven back with considerable loss. Col. Plumer himself was wounded in the right arm. These reports confirm earlier ones to the same effect from Boer sources.

Buller's force in Natal is being attacked by the Boers. They began their aggressive movement here on the 10th, in the neighborhood of Elandslaagte, where the earliest fighting of the war occurred. Elandslaagte is on the railroad only a few miles north of Ladysmith. Buller, like Roberts, is badly hampered for want of fresh horses and winter clothing.

The latest official report of British casualties was issued on the 11th and brings the figures down to the 7th. They are as follows:

Killed	2,171
Died	2,082
Missing and prisoners.....	3,890
Invalided home.....	5,222
Total	13,365

In this report the number of wounded is not given. Together with other losses since the 7th, it raises the grand total to about 23,000.

The volksraad, or legislature, of the Orange Free State met on the 4th at Kroonstad. It was opened with an address by President Steyn, who predicted an early termination of the war through the intervention of France, Russia and Germany. About the same time a ballot was being taken at Bloemfontein upon a name for the Orange Free State when it shall have been conquered by the British. Brandesia, in memory of a former president, was adopted.

The neutrality of Portugal has been brought under discussion since the Delagoa arbitration noted last week, by an extraordinary act on Portugal's part. She has consented to the passage of British troops through Portuguese East Africa to Rhodesia, north of the Transvaal. The matter having been questioned on the 4th in the Portuguese chamber of deputies, the minister for foreign affairs explained it in these terms:

The transport of British soldiers by railroad from Beira to Umtali was requested by Great Britain and consented to by Portugal because the British government thereby only exercised a right recognized in the treaties between the two countries. The outbreak of war has not abrogated these treaties, which were concluded and signed prior to the war by Portugal in a spirit of loyalty. I have informed the Transvaal of this resolution. Portugal has loyally adhered to its duties and neutrality, and its resolutions have been communicated to all interested parties.

President Kruger has formally protested, notifying Portugal that the Transvaal government considers the shipping of British troops to Rhodesia through Portuguese territory to be tantamount to hostile action.

American government in the Philippines appears to be in quite as bad condition as Agoncillo's story, published last week, implied. The Associated press reports of the 8th from Manila say that "reports of encounters between the American troops and the insurgents continue to arrive from many points." Among these encounters was one within five miles of Manila, where a Filipino outpost in full uniform was attacked. Another occurred in Laguna prov-

ince, where an American detachment was driven for refuge into a church and held there until reenforcements arrived. There was another in Cagayan province, another in the island of Panay, and still another in the island of Samar.

The effect of this sort of constant harassing warfare is forcibly indicated by the frequent requests Gen. Young, commanding northern Luzon, has made for reenforcements. He says that his force is inadequate, that his men are exhausted by the necessity for constant vigilance, that he is unable to garrison the towns in his jurisdiction, and that the Filipinos are returning to the district and killing the American friendlies. Gen. Bell, who commands southern Luzon, makes similar representations. He complains that owing to the inadequacy of his force he merely holds a few towns without controlling the territory.

At his own request, Gen. Otis has been relieved. Private interests, he explains, require his immediate return. Gen. MacArthur is to succeed him as military governor. Regarding the situation he cables that he believes that by May 1 matters at Manila "can be placed in quite a satisfactory condition," although "a large repressive military force must be maintained for some time." Pending Gen. Otis's return a resolution has been introduced in the lower house of congress, by Congressman Levy, of New York, asking for information from the secretary of war upon which to base a congressional investigation into the manner in which Gen. Otis and the American military officers have been conducting the war in the Philippines.

A sensational report of a military murder comes from Manila, Gen. Funston being the accused. It is to the effect that the Filipinos captured three of Funston's native scouts near San Isidro, and were preparing to kill them when one escaped and found Funston near by with a scouting party. Funston followed the native to the rescue of his companions, and the Filipinos fled when Funston's party appeared. They left their prisoners behind, but Funston chased the retreating Filipinos and captured two. These he took to the village of San Isidro, and there hanged them. The hanging was without trial or legal form of any kind, and the mat-

ter has been under military investigation, with the prospect, it is reported, that Funston may be court-martialed.

American casualties in the Philippines since August 6, 1898, inclusive of all official reports given out at Washington to April 4, 1900, are as follows:

Killed	467
Died of wounds, disease and accidents	1,186
Total deaths	1,653
Wounded	2,072
Total loss	3,725
Total loss reported last week....	3,725
Total deaths reported last week..	1,653

No reports of casualties have been published in the press since the 4th.

A further step in the direction of the American crown colony system was taken in congress on the 11th, when the senate amendments to the Puerto Rican tariff bill of the lower house, amendments which made it a full government bill, (See No. 105, page 5), were concurred in by the house. The subject was first disposed of by the republicans in caucus on the 5th. As the caucus was to be binding, the republican members who oppose a tariff between the states and Puerto Rico remained away. They are McCall of Massachusetts, Littlefield of Maine, Lorimer of Illinois, Crumpacker, of Indiana, Heatwole of Minnesota, Lane of Iowa and Warner of Illinois. At a conference held by them they decided not to recede from their former position. At the party caucus a motion to concur in all the senate amendments was adopted with only two dissenting votes. The principal objection made by the two dissentients—Cooper of Wisconsin and Moody of Massachusetts—was to the provision inserted in the bill by the senate requiring all the members of the upper council of the Puerto Rican legislature to be appointees of the president and clothing them with the power to grant franchises. The republican caucus having agreed to support the bill as it came from the senate, the ways and means committee decided on the 10th to report it without amendment. This it did on the 11th. On the same day the rules committee reported a special rule for the bill, cutting off debate at 5 o'clock that afternoon. The vote on this rule was 158 in the affirmative and 142 in the negative. After a sharp debate, the bill was