

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 The Boer force reported last week as holding the pass to Lydenburg has withdrawn farther north and east, and the British occupied Lydenburg on the 6th.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-