

ber of Guerra's partisans. After this there was no Venezuelan news of importance until December 21, when it was announced from Curacao that the long-threatened revolution, evidently the fruit of the suspected conspiracy, had begun on the 19th, under the leadership of Gen. Luciano Mendoza, president-elect of the state of Carabobo. Another uprising was reported at the same time from Valencia. In consequence of this new revolt the American battleship, *Indiana*, was on the 21st sent to Curacao for the protection of American interests. Further complications are caused by the probable interference of Germany. A railway loan authorized by the Venezuelan congress in 1896 has come into the hands of German subjects, to the amount of \$15,000,000; and as the interest is long past due, Germany threatens to send out warships, and, taking possession of Venezuelan custom houses, forcibly to collect the debt. President Castro disregards this threat, believing the United States will defend the Monroe doctrine to the extent of forbidding European occupation of Venezuelan ports. But the United States, while concerned over the possibility of an extended occupation, concedes the right of Germany to collect the debt in this way. It is believed to be in sympathy with the revolution against Castro, upon the success of which it hopes to see the German claims paid and the question of an infraction of the Monroe doctrine avoided. There are suspicions also that this sympathy is due in some measure to an expectation that the asphalt question (vol. iii., pp. 662, 705) will be dealt with more in harmony with the Washington idea by a new Venezuelan government than it has been by Castro's.

The encouragement which the British were observed last week to have received from the seat of war in South Africa has not been strengthened since. On the contrary, the fighting reported this week has been severe and the results not encouraging. These reports are exclusively, of course, from British sources. On the 23d Lord Kitchener reported five different engagements, in four of which the British loss in killed and wounded was upward of 100, the casualties in one of the engagements not being yet known. It is inferred from the general character of these reports that De Wet is forcing the fighting. One of the reported engagements was an attack on the 18th by De Wet at Lang-

berg, in which the fighting lasted several hours, De Wet being finally driven off. On the 19th the Boers attacked the British post at Eland-Spruit, but were driven off after a sharp and deadly fight. On the 20th a British attack upon a Boer force in the eastern part of the Transvaal resulted in a hard fight; and on the same day, in the neighborhood of Beginderyn a British party engaged in searching farms was attacked by Boers and suffered severe but as yet unreported losses. On the same day the hottest battle of all was fought. It occurred at Tofelkop, in the Orange Free State, between Botha and a British colonel of the name of Damant. In the early part of the struggle the Boers got possession of the summit of a hill which both forces were trying to take, but after two hours of fighting were driven from it, whereupon they dispersed. In this engagement the British loss was 32 killed and 40 wounded, Col. Damant being among the latter. On the 24th the British attacked a Boer camp in the Pietersburg district and captured 60 prisoners.

Large numbers of troops are being sent out to South Africa by the British. During holiday week the aggregate number leaving England and the colonies will not fall short of 15,000. Dispatches of the 25th tell of the effective use by the British of a corps of Boer scouts who have offered their services against their countrymen.

NEWS NOTES.

—The danger of war between Chili and Argentina, noted last week, has been averted, temporarily at least, by the signing of a protocol on the 25th between representatives of the two countries.

—In the free lecture course under the auspices of the Daughters of the Revolution, at the Fine Arts building, Chicago, the subject for Friday evening, December 27, is "Realism in Art, a Study in Colors," the lecturer being Margaret Warren Springer.

—Lyman J. Gage, secretary of the treasury, has informally resigned, the resignation to take effect March 1. His place was first offered by the president to Gov. Crane, of Massachusetts, who declined. It was then offered to Gov. Shaw, of Iowa, who was announced on the 25th as having accepted.

—As the result of recent experiments by Dr. Frederick G. Novy and Prof. Paul C. Freer, at the bacteriological laboratory of the University of

Michigan, the discovery was authoritatively announced, on the 22d, of an absolute antiseptic for all intestinal diseases, such as dysentery, typhoid fever and cholera.

—Jennie C. Croley, familiar to the American reading public as "Jennie June," died at New York on the 23d, of heart failure, aged 71 years. She was a founder and the second president, Alice Cary being the first, of Sorosis, the original Woman's club, organized in 1868. She was also instrumental in organizing the Federation of Women's Clubs.

—The Building Material Trades council of Chicago, in which 43 unions, with an aggregate membership of 15,000, are federated, has decided by a referendum vote of 1,249 to 530, 20 unions voting, to hold special meetings hereafter for political discussion. This is a revolution in trade union methods, it being a universal rule to taboo political discussion.

—Dr. A. D. Houghton, recently deposed from the faculty of Hahnemann medical college, of Chicago, claims to have re-created from the chemical elements of disintegrated protoplasm, living cells that display all the functions of organic life for two weeks or more. The one thing lacking in these cells, he says, is the power of reproduction; but when he can develop that power in them he will be able to make animals to order.

IN CONGRESS.

This report is an abstract of the Congressional Record, the official report of congressional proceedings. It includes all matters of general interest, and closes with the last issue of the Record at hand upon going to press. Page references are to the pages of Vol. 35 of that publication.

Washington, Dec. 16 to 19, 1901.

Senate.

Reassembling on the adjourned day, the 16th, the senate transacted routine business of no general interest. A brief debate occurred, however (p. 284), on the propriety of continuing the ancient farce of executive sessions, after which the senate went into executive session for six hours. While in executive session it ratified the Hay-Pauncefote treaty (p. 338) by the vote of 72 to 6. The bills introduced relating to general subjects were as follows: No. 1791, foreign trade; 1792, navigation (p. 281); j. r. 20, woman's suffrage amendment (p. 282). Senator Vest's anarchy resolution of December 4, which was referred to the judiciary committee to-day, is printed in full at page 284.

On the 17th nothing of an important public character was done; but the following bills of public interest were introduced: No. 1812, registration of transporters (p. 292); 1891, immigrants and anarchists (p. 293); 1921, Hawaiian coinage and currency (p. 294); j. r. 25, authorizing invitation to king of Siam to visit the United States as the guest of the nation.

No business of general interest was transacted on the 18th, and the only important general bills introduced were: No. 2030, industrial education; 2031, industrial education (p. 336).

On the 19th house bill No. 5633, for temporary revenues for Philippines, came up to the senate, when it was read twice by its title and referred to the committee on the Philippines. Nothing else of general interest was done, except that the following bills on subjects of general interest were introduced: No. 2069, trial and punishment in contempt cases (p. 401); 2164, standard of wages for women employees of the government (p. 402). Pursuant to resolution of