

ing so, the policy of the administration with reference to the Philippines is illegal, since the Dingley law duties on imports from the Philippines are being collected. Moreover, according to the De Lima case, the president's military authority in the ceded territory as commander in chief ended with the ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain, so he could not make laws on the basis of military necessity. But in the Downes case the court decided that congress may legislate without constitutional restraint with reference to new territory. This, however, congress has not done regarding the Philippines, except by the Spooner act, which assumes to delegate congressional power to the president and is therefore of doubtful validity. For these reasons it was proposed to call an extra session for the purpose of securing an act of congress for the Philippines like the Foraker act with reference to Puerto Rico, which the supreme court had upheld in the Downes case. In opposing that proposition the attorney general urged that the Philippine case differs from the Puerto Rico case, and that if congress were to assemble in special session it would be as much in the dark as to its power as the president is as to his, with reference to the Philippines. What the attorney general, therefore, proposed was that the president maintain in form a military occupation of the Philippines at least until congress acts in regular session. By doing this it is hoped that the administration will be in position to claim before the supreme court that although the Philippines ceased to be foreign territory immediately upon the ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain, yet, owing to the resistance of the inhabitants the military character of the American occupation, and consequently the military authority of the president as commander in chief, continue. The attorney general's suggestion was adopted at a cabinet meeting on the 4th, after which the following semiofficial announcement was given out at the white house:

The president has determined that existing conditions do not require or warrant calling congress together during the present summer or making any change in the policy hitherto pursued and announced in regard to the Philippine islands.

As the cabinet decision intimates, there is no intention of abandoning the plan of instituting civil government in the Philippines on the 1st of July.

But this will not now be done with the flourish that was originally intended. Civil government there will assume a tentative character, with the military authority still in the ascendant, nominally if not actually, and will so remain until congress acts and the supreme court sheds more light upon the possibilities of a colonial establishment.

On the question of Philippine citizenship, an expression was drawn from the government on the 1st by an application which two Filipinos in London made to the American embassy there for a passport to enable them to travel in Russia. Instructions were cabled for to Washington, and Secretary Hay directed the American ambassador to issue passports describing the applicants as "residents of the Philippine islands, and as such entitled to the protection of the United States."

From the Philippines there came a report on the 30th of a skirmish in which a surgeon was killed; and on the 4th a Manila dispatch told of an interview between Aguinaldo and the adjutant to Gen. Cailles. The Filipino adjutant said that Gen. Cailles did not believe that Aguinaldo had been captured, but supposed that Aguinaldo's proclamation was an American forgery. According to the Manila dispatch, Aguinaldo sent word back to Gen. Cailles advising him to surrender.

The Chinese situation, to which reference was last made in these columns on page 89, has advanced somewhat, though the finality is not yet. No action had been taken by the powers at the time of the last report, with reference to China's reply to the indemnity demanded, in which she offered 15,000,000 taels (about \$10,500,000) annually for 30 years. They subsequently agreed upon an indemnity of 450,000,000 taels (\$327,000,000), with four per cent. interest until paid, and this demand the Chinese envoys have acceded to. The bonds are to be secured by an increase of five per cent. in maritime customs, by a tax on salt, and by inland customs. Accordingly affairs have been put in readiness by the powers for the return of the Chinese court to Peking. The administration of the city is to be transferred gradually to the Chinese officials during the pres-

ent month, and the evacuation is now going on.

An end to the ministerial crisis in Japan (page 89) has been reached by the formation of a new cabinet. Count Yamagata, who had been invited to form a cabinet, upon the resignation of Marquis Ito, who had succeeded him last fall, was unable or unwilling to undertake the responsibility, and it was turned over to Viscount Katsura, who succeeded in the task on the 3d.

Once more public interest is startled into activity by the Boer war. Just as the people of Great Britain were again settling down to the conviction that only occasional and harmless guerrilla skirmishes remained to remind them of hostilities, and that these, too, would soon cease, the London Times published a three-column list of British killed and wounded in engagements which the government had never reported. That was on the 30th, and on the 31st a dispatch was received from Gen. Kitchener in which he reported desperate fighting and heavy British losses at Vlakkfontein, within 40 miles of Johannesburg, on the Durban-Johannesburg railroad. Gen. Kitchener's dispatch, dated the 30th, is its own best commentary. He said:

Gen. Dixon's force at Vlakkfontein was attacked yesterday by Delarey's forces and there was severe fighting. The enemy was eventually driven off with heavy loss, leaving 35 dead. I regret that our casualties also were severe. The killed and wounded numbered 174. Four officers were killed.

Later reports of British losses put them at 6 officers and 51 men killed, 6 officers and 115 men wounded, and 1 officer and 7 men missing.

That dispatch was followed on the 4th by another in which Gen. Kitchener told briefly of the surrender on the 2d, by the British, of Jamestown, in Cape Colony, to a body of Boers, after four hours' fighting. As Gen. Kitchener explains it—

the town guard and local volunteers were overpowered before our pursuing columns could come up. Our casualties were three killed and two wounded. The Boer loss is said to have been greater. The stores were looted, but the garrison was released. Have placed Gen. French in charge of operations in Cape Colony.

President Kruger was reported on the 30th from Brussels to have peti-

tioned the international arbitration court to convene and arbitrate the issues involved in the South African war.

Coming back to American affairs, the Cuban controversy looms up again in consequence of the explanations of the Platt amendment which the Cuban convention inserted in their acceptance of it, as stated last week. These explanations the president declines to reaffirm. The matter came before a cabinet meeting at Washington on the 31st, at the close of which Secretary Root cabled to Gen. Wood that the president and cabinet decline to accept the Cuban constitution; that the declination applies to every part of the instrument as well as to the Platt amendment part; that the convention must reassemble and adopt the Platt amendment in its exact form as it passed congress and without interpreting clauses; and that the establishment of the Cuban republic and the evacuation of the island by United States troops will be delayed until the terms fixed by congress are accepted. A written statement to the same effect was mailed to Gen. Wood on the 2d. Havana dispatches of the 5th tell of a secret meeting of the convention on the 4th, at which it was tentatively decided to reaffirm the previous decision of the convention after Secretary Root's written refusal to accept it shall have been received.

There is an unexpected turn in the Tillman-McLaurin senatorial contest in South Carolina, reported at page 123 last week. Senator Tillman, it will be recalled, had denounced Senator McLaurin as a republican. When McLaurin resented this, saying he was as he had always been a representative of South Carolina democracy, Tillman challenged him to resign and go before the people. "If you are a democrat," said Tillman, "I am not," and "if the people reelect you I will take it as notice that they don't want me." McLaurin responded that in challenging him to resign Tillman had been careful not to resign himself, whereupon Tillman challenged McLaurin to a joint resignation. This was at a meeting at Gaffney, on the 25th, where McLaurin had been advocating imperialism. The immediate result was the joint resignation reported last week. But when this resignation reached Gov. McSweeney, he returned it, urging the two senators to reconsider, and warning them

that if they did not he would not call democratic primaries to secure a popular expression on the senatorship, as they requested, but would appoint other men to fill the vacancies. McLaurin promptly withdrew his resignation, saying:

For the sake of the peace, prosperity and happiness of the people of this state I am willing to hold to my commission as United States senator and to continue to serve as I have done in the past to the best of my ability.

Prior to learning of McLaurin's individual withdrawal of his name from the joint resignation, Senator Tillman wrote the governor protesting against his interference with a popular expression of opinion upon the vital questions upon which Senator McLaurin votes in the senate with the republicans. He said:

You declare the people are entitled to at least one year's freedom from political battles and bitterness. That is very desirable, but our race has ever thought war preferable to dishonor. What you consider a calamity would be hailed by thousands as an opportunity to get rid of a traitor who now disgraces the commonwealth. The session of congress beginning next December marks an era in the history of our republic, and the patriots who will then and there inaugurate a struggle for the restoration of our free institutions will need every voice and every vote that can be had. The fact that the republicans have a good majority in the senate does not alter the case in the least. The recent decision in the supreme court promulgating the damnable doctrine that this republic, whose bedrock principle is the "consent of the governed," can acquire by conquest or purchase territories and peoples, to be controlled and taxed without representation through congressional absolutism, must be met and plans must be laid for the battle to the death. Yet with such a crisis on hand the governor of this grand old state appears willing to have the state misrepresented and its voice silenced because its two senators stand on opposite sides of the question. I claim to represent the people. The result of the Gaffney meeting has brought Senator McLaurin within reach of his constituents. There is nothing personal in my feelings toward Senator McLaurin. I speak bluntly because I have taught myself to call things by their names. Material prosperity and progress may be worth more than strict adherence to principles and loyalty, but I cannot see it in that light. Holding this view, I decline, for

the present, to withdraw my resignation. It was tendered to obtain the resignation of Senator McLaurin and will not be withdrawn till he has shown his unwillingness to let our people pass on his conduct this year instead of next.

But McLaurin's subsequent withdrawal left Tillman no alternative, and, repeating that he had "no other motive or purpose in resigning except to force McLaurin," he reluctantly accepted the situation and withdrew his own resignation.

In view of the great machinists' strike for a nine-hour day with undiminished wages, which began on the 20th of May (page 105), the annual convention of the International Association of Machinists, which met at Toronto on the 3d, is of special importance. In referring to the strike, President James O'Connell, in his annual address, indicated the policy of the organization. It is to concentrate all the energies of the trade upon manufacturing establishments for the present, but to extend the strike to railways at an opportune time. Mr. O'Connell said:

Machinists employed in the railway service have been more than anxious to take part in the movement begun on May 20, but we have felt that many roads could not be sufficiently prepared by that date, and have advised against such a move, except in special cases. Great progress has been made for the last three months by our organization with the railway machinists, and I recommend that a date be set for the inauguration of the nine-hour day for machinists employed in the railway service.

NEWS NOTES.

—The Hall of Fame at New York was formally dedicated on the 3d.

—President and Mrs. McKinley reached Washington from San Francisco on the 3d.

—The sixth annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers met at Detroit on the 4th.

—The Ohio democratic convention is called to meet at Columbus on the 9th and 10th of July. Charles P. Salen, director of public works of Cleveland, has been selected as temporary chairman.

—At the International Miners' congress, in session at London, a resolution inviting the United Mine Workers of America to become members and to send delegates to the annual meetings was adopted on the 29th.

—The National Association of Railroad Commissioners met at San Fran-