

ural sites and resources, and so foster trusts and promote socialism, or, on the other, undermine those monopolies and thereby advance and strengthen the cause of individual liberty?

NEWS

Serious fighting continues in South Africa. On the 3d a British force came in conflict with a Boer force near Amersfoort, in the southeastern Transvaal, and drove it from its position. The news dispatch mentions no casualties. But on the 4th the same Boer force renewed the engagement with a detachment of the same British force at the same place; and in this affair the British lost 19 killed, including the major in command, and 13 wounded. Also on the 4th, at Bronkhorstspruit, a railroad town 40 miles east of Pretoria, a party of Scots Grays was ambushed by Boers and in the fight lost 6 killed and 10 wounded. Two or three minor skirmishes are reported, in one of which the British killed 5 Boers and captured 29.

The British government is buying land in the Orange Free State with a view to laying it off in small allotments and populating it with friendly settlers. In the Thabanchu district this policy has been carried to the extent of the purchase of 28,000 acres, where 80 farms had, by the reports of the 5th, been allotted.

Computations of casualties in the war, based upon British official reports and emanating from London, put the total Boer loss, since the beginning of the war, in killed, wounded and prisoners, at 18,320. The number of deaths is not particularized. British losses for the same period are put at 24,293, of which 9,113 were sustained in actual fighting, the total death losses being 19,430. The total number of British invalided home, of whom the majority recovered and returned to their commands, is 64,330.

American sympathy with the Boers found emphatic expression on the 5th at a mass meeting at Cleveland. The attendance was large, being reported by the press dispatches as 4,000. Ex-Congressman John J. Lentz delivered the principal speech. His sympathetic sentiments were indorsed in brief speeches by Mayor Johnson and Wil-

liam J. Bryan, the latter happening to be in Cleveland as Mayor Johnson's guest. Carefully prepared resolutions addressed to President Roosevelt were adopted. Meanwhile active efforts are being made for the collection of funds for the relief of non-combatants in the British reconcentration camps pursuant to the proclamation of Gov. Yates, of Illinois; and Rev. Dr. Hiram W. Thomas and his wife, Vandalia Varnum Thomas, have been selected by the committee appointed by Gov. Yates, composed of Judge E. F. Dunne, Mayor Harrison and Peter Van Vliessingen, of Chicago, to go to these South African camps for the purpose of distributing the money. In accepting this appointment Dr. and Mrs. Thomas write:

In the name of God and humanity we are ready to go to that far-off land. Gladly will we be the bearers of the generous offerings and deep sympathies of the people of our country to the free to the noncombatants—the aged, the mothers and children, the sick and dying—whose husbands and fathers are fighting so grandly for home and country, for the rights of man.

While Americans are thus manifesting sympathy for the Boers in their resistance to British invasion, the similar invasion by the United States of the Philippines continues to meet with similar though less effective resistance. As the reports, like those from South Africa, pass through the military censorship of the invading power, they cannot be regarded as either complete or wholly reliable. But some idea of the situation may be spelled out from them. Gen. Bell was reported on the 5th from Manila as conducting a vigorous campaign in Batangas province, Luzon; from which it is fair to infer that the resistance to American dominion in that province is also vigorous. Conditions in the island of Samar are reported from Manila as still unsatisfactory, "owing to the difficulty of finding the insurgents;" which implies either that there are none or that, like the Boers, they do not fight their better-equipped enemy in the open, but attack him unawares. The latter implication is the more probable. In the island of Leyte, at Ormoc, the Americans have captured four cannon, powder factories, fully-equipped workshops, and a quantity of war material, all "belonging to the insurgents." Notwithstanding this evidence of determined resistance, the American civil authorities at Manila

declare that the island of Leyte "is now perfectly peaceful."

A remarkable document relating to the American occupation of the Philippines came to light on the 4th through the war department at Washington. It is signed by nine American soldiers, who have been among the Filipinos for many months, and is addressed to their comrades in the American army. In this document the signers say to their comrades that—

the time has arrived for us to break the silence and let you know the real truth, so that you will see the folly of continuation of fighting these people who are defending their country against the cruel American invasion in the same manner in which our forefathers did against England in those glorious days of our grand and noble liberator, Gen. George Washington. . . . That the war may soon end we ask the men of the American army stationed in these islands to present themselves to the Philippine authorities as we did. . . . Near every town there are always stationed forces of Filipino troops, to whom, should you so desire, you can present yourselves with or without your rifles, and to avoid danger it is best to hide it in a secure place, and after you have presented yourself, inform the Filipino officer or chief of the guerrillas and they will recover it and pay you some money in return.

On the basis of this document, one of the signers, J. Thomas Kreider, corporal Thirty-eighth U. S. V., was recently tried by military commission in Manila, and upon conviction of treason sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for life; but Gen. Chaffee disapproved the sentence on the ground that the evidence of an overt act of treason was not conclusive. He thought the preponderance of proof favored the contention of the accused soldier that he was held by the Filipinos as a prisoner and took no part in operations against the United States, gave no aid and comfort to the enemy, made reasonable effort to escape, and was compelled by his captors to sign the proclamation by threats of violence in case he refused.

At the opening of congress on the 6th, after the holiday recess, the Philippine question was made the subject of a bill, introduced in the house by Representative Henry A. Cooper, of Wisconsin, chairman of the committee on insular affairs, providing for a permanent form of civil government, beginning January 1, 1904, for