

stand sponsor for the advocacy by the owners of the paper of a 99-year charter for the old Dubuque street railway company. No better obituary could any true man wish for than that which is contributed to Mr. Murphy's memory in the editorial columns of a rival paper, the Dubuque Times:

With a heart full of sympathy for the weak, a noble aspiration for service to society, with a soul and intellect that gave him splendid courage and rare eloquence in the defense of any cause that appealed to his sympathies, John S. Murphy won the affections and the admiration of thousands. His life's work suddenly ended, its influence survives in their hearts. His lofty purposes remain as a heritage to the generation he sought to serve, while by those long and intimately associated with him in his work the memory of his kindness, gentleness and patience and the warmth and loyalty of his friendship will be treasured as his choicest influence and example.

NEWS

The war in South Africa continues to be the center of news interest; and, owing to an event of the current week, a news center of extraordinary importance. This event is a battle in which the Boers gained a startling victory and numbered among their prisoners the distinguished British general Methuen, the senior officer in South Africa next to Lord Kitchener.

Complete reports of the battle are not yet at hand. Lord Kitchener telegraphed the general facts on the 8th from Pretoria and they were made public in parliament on the 10th. According to this dispatch Gen. Methuen "was moving with 900 mounted men, under Maj. Paris, and 300 infantry, 4 guns and a pompom, from Winburg to Lichtenburg," when the attack was made. Winburg is in the Orange Free State, about 70 miles northeast from Bloemfontein; and Lichtenburg is in the South African Republic, about 25 miles east of Mafeking. The two points are about 150 miles apart, Winburg being the more southern. The best known places in the region between these extremes are Kroonstad, Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp. Gen. Methuen was to have effected a junction on the 8th with Gen. Grenfell, who, commanding 1,300 mounted men,

left Klerksdorp for that purpose; but early on the morning of the 7th he was attacked by Gen. Delarey, with a force estimated at 1,500, between Taaibasch and Palmieteknill, and, his force being thrown into confusion, he lost his guns and baggage and was himself taken prisoner. At Lord Kitchener's request this dispatch was withheld from publication by the British government at London until the receipt of a second one, dated the 10th, had confirmed the discouraging news of the first. The second dispatch told of the return of Maj. Paris with the remnant of Methuen's force. They reported that the attack had been made just before dawn, and that the British rear guard broke before reinforcements could come up, throwing men, mules and wagons into confusion. Maj. Paris collected a few men and made a sturdy defense, but at 10 o'clock in the forenoon was compelled to surrender. The British loss thus far reported, besides guns and baggage, was 41 killed, 77 wounded, and 201 missing. Though Gen. Methuen was retained as a prisoner, Maj. Paris appears to have been released. When last seen, Gen. Methuen was being well cared for in his own wagon, though suffering from a fractured thigh.

When the news of this disaster was announced in the House of Commons on the 10th, the Irish members cheered; but the general feeling both in the House and in the country is reported to have been more depressed and gloomy than at any time since the British disasters of 1899. This feeling has been intensified since the 11th by a general fear that Grenfell's force, which was to have effected a junction with Methuen on the 8th, has also suffered disaster, nothing having been heard from it since it left Klerksdorp. British reinforcements are being ordered out from London and the determination to pursue the "unconditional surrender" policy is asserted to be unrelaxed.

It is evident that there is very little American sentiment in sympathy with that attitude of the British government, while sympathy with the Boers is expressing itself with growing emphasis. The matter came up in Congress on the 7th, when Representative Burleson, of Texas, introduced a resolution calling upon the Secretary of State to explain why he refused to ask permission of the British government (p. 740) for the Rev.

Hiram W. Thomas and his wife to go to the British reconcentrado camps in South Africa, for the purpose of distributing relief funds collected under the authority of Gov. Yates. Mr. Burleson addressed the House on this resolution on the 11th, declaring his purpose to be to fasten the attention of the American people on the pro-British course of the state department. There was also a large popular demonstration at Joliet, Ill., on the 11th, one of an increasing number of public meetings in the West in protest against the attitude of the American government toward the British in the South African war. It was addressed by ex-Gov. Altgeld, of Illinois, on 18 specified points, the substance of which is printed in our Miscellany department this week; and the occasion was made sadly but impressively dramatic by the death of Gov. Altgeld in consequence of his effort and soon after the close of his speech.

Mr. Altgeld, though apparently in excellent physical condition at the beginning of his speech, grew weak toward its close; but rousing himself he delivered the peroration with his usual oratorical power, except that he stammered slightly toward the end as if confused. Having finished, and while the audience was yet applauding his splendid effort, he fell in a faint; and although he afterward recovered consciousness for a time, physicians pronounced his ailment an attack of apoplexy, and at 7 o'clock on the following morning, March 12, he died.

Born in Prussia, December 30, 1847, Altgeld came to this country with his parents when three years of age. His parents settled on a farm, in Ohio, and his early life was hard and his opportunities for acquiring an education poor. In 1864 he enlisted in the Union army, and fought as a private through the James river campaign. At the close of the war he worked his way through an academy, and after teaching in Ohio went, penniless and on foot — what we should now call a tramp — to St. Louis and thence to Kansas and Northwestern Missouri, where he taught school and studied law, working on farms at intervals. He was admitted to the bar in 1870, in Missouri, where he served for a time as city attorney of Savannah and then as state's attorney for Andrew county. In 1875 he came to Chicago. Here he built up a large practice and made