

absent members of the royal family were summoned to her bedside at Osborne house, on the Isle of Wight, near Cowes. All hopes of her recovery had been abandoned by the morning of the 21st, when her grandson, the emperor of Germany, arrived. There was a slight improvement in her condition later in the day, so that she was able to take food and to secure some tranquil sleep; but in the early morning hours of the 22d she was reported as only just alive, and in the evening, surrounded by her children and grandchildren, she passed painlessly away. The official report of the cause of her death attributes it to "senile decay." Queen Victoria was in her eighty-second year, having been born May 24, 1819; and had reigned since June 20, 1837. She was possessed of private wealth yielding an annual income of \$1,000,000, over and above her annual parliamentary allowance of nearly \$2,000,000 (£385,000).

The day following the queen's death, the prince of Wales took the oath of office as King Edward VII. It was administered at St. James's palace, in the presence of the privy council, the members of which then swore allegiance to the new king. Later in the day the house of lords and the house of commons also took the oath of allegiance. Upon taking the oath of office the new king made a speech in which he expressed his determination "to be a constitutional sovereign in the strictest sense of the word."

Immediately upon learning of Queen Victoria's death, and before official action by the British government, the governor general of Canada, Lord Minto, with the authority of the Canadian privy council, proclaimed the allegiance of the dominion.

At Washington the solemn occasion of the queen of England's death was promptly recognized by the half-masting of the flags at the public departments and over the white house. The latter mark of respect was an innovation. The white house flag has never before been half-masted upon the occasion of the death of a foreign ruler. Besides lowering the flag, President McKinley addressed a letter of condolence on the 22d to "His Majesty the King." Both houses of congress passed resolutions of respect, the lower house adjourning for

the day, but the senate deciding not to do so.

It was authoritatively reported at the beginning of Queen Victoria's illness that Lord Roberts's inability, when he visited her two weeks ago, to encourage her hopes that the war in South Africa was at an end, had weighed upon her spirits and been the cause of her physical decline which then set in. But Lord Roberts could not truthfully have given her the assurances she desired. The plight of the British in South Africa was worse then than it had been at any time before, and it is worse now than it was then. The reports of the Boer movements are not luminous, as might be supposed, with Lord Kitchener controlling all the avenues of intelligence; but a British proclamation on the 17th reveals some of the dangers of the situation. This proclamation, issued from Cape Town, places the whole of Cape Colony—except the Cape Town, Wynberg, Simon's Town, Port Elizabeth and East London districts—under martial law. Martial law has been proclaimed also in Tombuland, Griqualand East, and East and West Pondoland. Unless the invading Boers were meeting with success in arousing revolts in British territory, this resort of the British to martial law would be neither necessary nor desirable.

Further information regarding the Kitchener reconcentrado policy was furnished by the Associated Press on the 17th from Pretoria. We quote the dispatch:

Boer families and their stock are being systematically brought into convenient centers from all over the country. They are kept in camp and fed. Those who surrender voluntarily are supplied with full rations, and those whose husbands are still in the field are provided for on a reduced scale, which is raised, when the husbands surrender, to a full allowance.

From the American Transvaal—the Philippine archipelago—the only news of the week relates to the legislative proceedings of the president's commission, which is enacting laws for local government. There has either been no fighting, or else reports of it are suppressed. In answer to a request from the war department for information, Gen. MacArthur sent the following official dispatch from Manila on the 17th:

With reference to your telegram of

the 16th, the drunkenness of the army is no more noticeable here than in garrison in the United States. Considering the whole force as a unit, it is probably very much less. In Manila drunken men are very noticeable, as one drunkard in a public place creates an impression among citizens of extensive disorders throughout the whole force, which is not the case. The army is in splendid discipline. The high standard of efficiency is shown by their doing the hardest kind of service in the most faithful, inspiring manner. Houses of prostitution are not licensed, protected or encouraged.

American casualties in the Philippines since July 1, 1898, inclusive of the current official reports given out in detail at Washington to January 23, 1901, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900 (see page 91)	1,847
Killed reported from May 16, 1900, to the date of the presidential election, November 6, 1900.....	160
Death from wounds, disease and accident, same period.....	468
Total deaths to presidential election	
Killed reported since presidential election	22
Deaths from wounds, disease and accident, same period	132
Total deaths	
Wounded since July 1, 1898.....	2,382

Total casualties since July, '98....	4,951
Total casualties to last week.....	4,936
Total deaths to last week.....	2,554

In the organization of constitutional government in Cuba, some progress is to be noted. The constitutional convention, to which, under orders from the American war department (page 266), delegates were elected by popular vote September 15, last (page 377), and which assembled November 5 (page 487), received a report on the 21st instant from its central committee embodying the constitution proposed by that body for the action of the convention. After the proposed constitution had been read, the convention adjourned until the 24th.

In American politics the work of filling senatorial vacancies, which began last week (page 648), is nearly complete. Senator Shelby M. Culom was on the 23d elected to succeed himself by the legislature of Illinois, his democratic opponent being Samuel Alschuler, the democratic candidate last fall for govern-