

necessary for the construction of a canal suitable to the wants of modern navigation and commerce, and appropriates such sums as may be necessary to secure the control of the territory. It further authorizes the president, after securing control of the needed territory, to direct the secretary of war to construct the canal from the Caribbean sea, at a point near Greytown, in Nicaragua, by way of Lake Nicaragua, to a point on the Pacific ocean near Brito, and also to construct proper harbors at the termini of the canal, and to make necessary provisions for the defense of the canal and harbors. Authority is also given the president to make such surveys as may be necessary and to employ such persons in constructing the canal as may seem wise to him, and directs that in the construction of the canal the river San Juan and lake Nicaragua shall be used as far as they are available. The president is to guarantee to the states of Costa Rica and Nicaragua the use of the canal and harbors, upon terms to be agreed upon, for all vessels owned by those states or their citizens. Finally, an immediate appropriation of \$10,000,000 is made to carry on the work, and the secretary of war is authorized to enter into contracts for material and work, such work and material to be paid for as appropriations may be made from time to time, the aggregate cost being fixed at \$180,000,000. The bill went up to the Senate on the 13th, and was immediately referred to the Senate committee on interoceanic canals.

Representative Cooper's bill for permanent civil government in the Philippines (p. 632) came before the House committee on insular affairs on the 9th, and was referred by that committee to a sub-committee composed of Representatives Cooper, Moody, Crumpacker and Hamilton (Republicans), and Jones and Henry (Democrats).

From the Philippine islands it is reported that two of Gen. Malvar's principal supporters in Batangas province, Luzon, have surrendered to Gen. Bell, of the American army, and that they have been granted an armistice of five days for the purpose of enabling them to concentrate and surrender 160 Filipino troops with their arms. American successes of another kind are reported from the same province, Cols. Wint and Wells having "destroyed a large number of

barracks and hamlets and enough rations to keep 20,000 Filipinos for six months," without a single American casualty during the entire expedition. The Filipinos are described as fleeing before the Americans, while "many of them were killed and several surrendered."

A petition regarding Filipino leaders has been forwarded from Boston to congress, by the Anti-Imperialist league. It asks that a hearing be given by that body to Mabini and Aguinaldo. In the same general spirit Senator Hoar introduced a resolution in the Senate on the 13th, providing for the appointment of a committee of seven senators to examine into the conduct of the war in the Philippines, the administration of the government there and the condition and character of the inhabitants of the archipelago, the committee to have power to send for papers and persons, to administer oaths and to sit during the sessions of the senate. On the 14th Mr. Hoar spoke at length upon his resolution. Senator Lodge opposed it, urging that the matter be referred to the Philippines committee. No disposition of the resolution has yet been made.

A new phase of the memorable legal fight (p. 533) of the Chicago school teachers to compel the traction companies of this city to pay their taxes, has developed. The Federation of Teachers, under the leadership of Catharine Goggin and Margaret A. Haley, began this litigation because the deficiency in public revenues was a constant menace to the public schools. In investigating the reason for the annual complaints of shortness of funds, the teachers discovered that the traction companies were evading taxation on enormous franchise values, and after a litigation covering two years they won their case before the supreme court of the state, and the board of equalization accordingly assessed the Chicago traction companies at an amount (p. 534) that would yield an increase in taxes from them for 1900 of over \$2,000,000. But the companies still hold the taxing authorities at arm's length, and the school authorities announce the probable necessity of either cutting down teachers' salaries or closing the schools. In consequence of that announcement, the Teachers' Federation held a meeting at Masonic Temple on the 11th, which, after listening to Miss Haley, adopted an ad-

dress to "the parents, taxpayers and citizens of Chicago," saying:

The schools of Chicago are to be closed—the children are to be turned into the streets. Do you know why? Because the street railway and other companies refuse to pay this city the taxes that they owe on their franchises. The supreme court of Illinois says they owe these taxes. The state board of equalization, acting under the order of the supreme court, made the assessment on these franchises for one of the omitted years—1900. The corporations have applied to the federal courts to stop the collection of this tax, amounting to over \$2,000,000. These street railway companies, at the same time, are asking for renewal of these immensely valuable franchises from the city council. There is every indication that they will succeed in getting them. Do you not think these railway companies ought to pay what they owe before the city of Chicago considers the matter of granting them leases?

Accompanying this address the teachers are sending out for signatures a petition addressed to the city council. After a recital of the facts, it is as follows:

The undersigned protest against the renewal of any franchises to any of the present street railway companies, and petition that the city of Chicago do not treat with the said corporations until they have paid the taxes for which they are in arrears to the city.

At the same meeting the teachers adopted resolutions reciting the shortness of school funds, tracing the difficulty to apathy on the part of the public regarding the evasion of taxes, explaining their own work and its success in the courts, and resolving—

First, that the inconvenience of insufficient revenue should not be borne chiefly by us, who have done all that has been done to avert the situation that now exists; second, that in the alternative of closing the schools or cutting the teachers' salaries the schools should be closed, as that is obviously the only way in which the public can be brought to a proper sense of the alarming condition that now exists; third, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the city council and the board of education.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—Gov. Nash, of Ohio, was formally inaugurated for the second time as governor of Ohio on the 13th.

—The Chicago Inter Ocean, formerly controlled by Charles T. Yerkes,