

until the two Boer republics had been divested of every shred of independence. At a late hour in the day the government presented to the house the supplementary war estimate, but its contents were kept secret. On the 7th Secretary Chamberlain stated that Sir Alfred Milner would be appointed governor of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. He also outlined the government's plan of reconstruction. A vote was reached on the 10th upon a proposed amendment to the address to the queen expressing regret that Lord Salisbury had recommended so many of his own family to offices under the government. The amendment was lost by 128 to 230. The main purpose of the session was accomplished on the 11th, when, the secretary of war having disclosed the contents of the supplementary estimate showing that £16,000,000 was required for the army, that amount was appropriated by a vote of 284 to 8.

While parliament was engaged in London upon the extra appropriation for war purposes, an immense Irish convention was assembling in Dublin. Over 3,000 delegates, representing county councils, district councils, borough corporations and branches of the United Irish league were in attendance. The convention opened on the 11th, and was described by John Redmond, who presided, as "the parliament of the Irish people." A resolution protesting against the British war upon the two Boer republics, proposed by John Dillon, was adopted unanimously. By an almost unanimous vote Timothy Healey and J. L. Carew were ordered to be excluded from the parliamentary party. At the second day's session a resolution was adopted demanding the sale of Irish lands to tenants at fair prices, and urging the necessity of stopping emigration to the United States. The Irish members of parliament attended the convention instead of appearing in their seats in the house of commons. They took this course because parliament had been assembled only to vote war funds for the subjugation of the Boers, a measure which they could not defeat and in the passage of which they had no wish to participate.

President Kruger, whose departure from France was noted last

week, arrived at The Hague on the 6th, where he was warmly received both by local officials and the public. Neither the queen nor anyone representing her greeted him; but the second chamber adopted a resolution of welcome, and on the 9th he had an audience with the queen, to which he was conducted by a court official in a state carriage. On the 11th, however, the government definitely and finally refused to take the initiative in urging Great Britain to arbitrate her differences with the Transvaal, explaining that the initiative is for the great powers to take and not for the smaller ones. It is rumored that the czar has refused to receive Mr. Kruger, but the Transvaal legation at The Hague contradicts the rumor.

In encouragement of Kruger's mission in Europe an immense Afrikander congress was held on the 6th at Worcester, a town in Cape Colony, not far from Cape Town. More than 6,000 Boers from different parts of Cape Colony were in attendance. Fearing some revolutionary violence, the British had posted troops and planted guns around the town. But no occasion arose for using them. The congress was peaceable throughout, although it freely condemned the British policy regarding the two republics to the north. Its session closed with the adoption by acclamation of three resolutions and the appointment of a delegation to deliver the resolutions to Sir Alfred Milner, governor general of Cape Colony, for transmission to the British government. The first resolution demands the termination of the war, protests against the devastation of the country and the burning of farms, and declares that the independence of the republics will alone insure peace in South Africa. The second urges the right of Cape Colony to manage its own affairs and censures the policy of Sir Alfred Milner. The third pledges the congress to "labor in a constitutional way" to attain the ends defined in the two preceding resolutions. In reply to the deputation, upon receiving these resolutions, Sir Alfred Milner said:

I shall forward these resolutions to the imperial government with my strong disapproval. They were framed by clever men now engineering the present agitation and encouraging those who are carrying on a hopeless resistance.

Meantime the largest Boer force now in service, led by the ablest cavalry general of the war, DeWet, was reported to have been caught in a trap. After DeWet's capture of Dewetsdorp, reported last week, he was chased by Gen. Knox, who appears to have driven him first southward and then to the west into the angle formed by the Orange and the Caledon rivers. Both streams were said to be swollen with recent rains, while strong bodies of British troops controlled every avenue of escape. On the 10th a London dispatch told of a great battle in progress, the Boers refusing to surrender and both sides suffering heavily. According to other London dispatches of the same date this struggle had then been in progress for ten days. But on the 12th Lord Kitchener reported that Gen. Knox was engaged in a running fight with DeWet, who was moving toward Reddersburg. From this report it is apparent that DeWet has crossed the Caledon and again eluded the superior British force.

The only other news of fighting in South Africa comes from points hundreds of miles farther north. Between Pretoria and Rustenburg, which lies west of Pretoria, a force of Boers, said to be a detachment of DeWet's command, attacked a British convoy on the 5th, killing 15 British soldiers and wounding 23; and on the 11th another attacked the British post near Barberton, killing 3, wounding 5 and capturing 13.

American difficulties in the Philippines continue to be as exasperating as those of the British in the Transvaal country, and for reasons not very dissimilar. In a letter of October 29, just published, Judge Taft, the president of the Philippine commission, explained:

The reelection of President McKinley will be a long step toward the complete pacification of these islands and will, I hope, end what remains of the insurrection, which is now continued only for election purposes, to influence the result in America. . . .

But these assurances are not borne out by events. Though it is now five weeks since Mr. McKinley's reelection, the Filipinos are still fighting with the patriotic ardor that has characterized their resistance to invasion from the start. On the 7th

four engagements in Luzon were reported—one on the Nehico river, two near Bulacan and one near San Roque. Besides these, several minor engagements have recently been fought in Luzon; and from the island of Bohol increased military activity is reported. The Filipinos fall back at all contested points, avoiding battle, but they resume their positions as soon as the Americans get out of range. On the 11th an engagement was reported near Santa Cruz, Luzon, along with several minor encounters in the neighborhood. And so the story runs. It is probably worse than the regular dispatches indicate. For while the censorship has been removed, correspondents are still subject to military discipline. Moreover, the Hong-Kong correspondent of the London Mail, who is evidently not a Filipino sympathizer, declares, in his letter published on the 10th, that—

reliable mail advices from Manila show that the position of the Americans is becoming increasingly hopeless. Money is freely subscribed to purchase arms and ammunition that are imported for the insurgents. The Americans will never capture the rebel contraband running vessels. While, in order to flatter the official view the trade is flourishing, goods are permitted to be freely imported into Manila, they are distributed from that point to the insurgents, who are murdering and pillaging all sympathizers with Americans.

American casualties since July 1, 1898, inclusive of the current official reports given out in detail at Washington to December 12, 1900, are as follows:

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| 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..... | 100   |
| Deaths from wounds, disease and accident, same period .....  | 468   |
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| Total deaths to presidential election .....  | 2,415 |
| Killed reported since presidential election .....  | 17    |
| Deaths from wounds, disease and accident, same period .....  | 76    |
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| Total deaths .....   | 2,508 |
| Wounded since July 1, 1898 .....   | 2,373 |
| <hr/>  |       |
| Total casualties since July . '98....  | 4,881 |
| Total casualties to last week.....   | 4,881 |
| Total deaths to last week.....   | 2,508 |

Regarding the Chinese situation,

it now appears that the British minister has not yet received instructions to sign the joint note we summarized last week. All the other ministers, however, except the German, have been instructed to do so. The negotiations, therefore, await the action of the British and the German governments. Some difficulty has arisen with reference to the credentials of Li Hung Chang and Prince Ching, the Chinese envoys. They possess only telegraphic authority from the emperor. But it has been decided to waive this informality, and, as soon as the British and German ministers receive instructions to sign the joint note, to begin the negotiations with the envoys.

The twentieth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, which opened at Louisville on the 6th, was made notable by the presence, as regular delegates, of three women and the occupation for a time of the president's chair by one of them—Miss Esther King. A warm debate took place on the 10th over a resolution requiring the federation "to go into the next national campaign with this single demand (direct legislation), upon which all lovers of freedom and justice can stand." The resolution was supported by socialist delegates, and opposed by those who object to political action by the federation as a body. By a vote of 70 to 50 it was lost; but a resolution indorsing the initiative and referendum was adopted—70 to 56. On the 12th, while adopting a resolution advocating the establishment of a governmental department of labor with its chief a cabinet officer; a clause in the resolution requiring such officer to be a bona fide trade unionist was defeated by a vote of 78 to 47. The federation is still in session.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—Russian reports indicate a renewal of Armenian massacres by the Kurds.

—The American Economic association will hold its thirteenth annual convention in Detroit December 27-8-9.

—In the Quebec provincial elections held on the 7th the liberals made almost a clean sweep, electing 67 members out of 74 in the provincial legislature.

—The Michigan state legislature met for the second time this year, in special session, in response to a call

by Gov. Pingree, to act on the taxation bills indorsed by the people at the recent election.

—Henry Russell, the famous English composer and song writer and the author of "A Life on the Ocean Wave" and "Cheer, Boys, Cheer," died in London on the 6th, aged 87 years.

—A bill providing for a popular vote on whether or not a constitutional convention shall be held in Alabama to eliminate the illiterate negro vote was passed by the legislature of that state on the 7th.

—The United States transport Hancock arrived at San Francisco from Manila on the 10th with the bodies of 1,500 soldiers and sailors who either were killed in battle or succumbed to wounds and disease in the Philippines and China.

—Hon. Charles A. Towne, recently appointed by Gov. Lind of Minnesota as the successor of the late Senator C. K. Davis, took the oath of office on the 10th. He will serve until the legislature elects a successor for Senator Davis, whose term expired March 4, 1901.

—Harvard won the annual debate with Yale for the third consecutive time at Cambridge on the 7th. The question debated was the desirability of the permanent retention of the Philippines. Harvard supported the affirmative side of the question. One of the Harvard debaters was a negro—Roscoe Conkling Bruce, son of the late Senator Bruce, of Mississippi.

—A strike of telegraphic operators on all the lines of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway was declared on the 8th by the Order of Railway Telegraphers. Twelve hundred operators quit work. New men were readily procured by the company, which now asserts that the backbone of the strike is broken. The strike leaders claim on the contrary that it is still effective.

—William M. Salter's lecture on "Fair Taxation and the Teachers' Grievance," which Mr. Salter was to have delivered before the Ethical society at Steinway hall, Chicago, at the regular Sunday morning meeting on the 9th, was postponed on account of Mr. Salter's illness and will be delivered on the 16th. On the same day at three o'clock in the afternoon Miss Margaret A. Haley will speak upon the same subject before the Henry George association at Handel hall, 40 Randolph street.

#### IN CONGRESS.

This report is an abstract of the Congressional Record, and closes with the last issue of that publication at hand upon going to press.

Senate.

Dec. 3-8, 1900.

On Monday, December 3, Mr. Frye, as president pro tem. of the senate, called that body to order for the second session of the Fifty-sixth congress, which was opened