

fective unless adopted by all powers. Another objection applies to the amendment abrogating (page 601) the existing Clayton-Bulwer treaty. But the third and principal one was directed to the so-called "Davis amendment," which would accord the United States the right to take measures which it "may find necessary to take for securing by its own forces the defense of the United States and the maintenance of public order." Great Britain objects to this as virtually allowing the United States to treat the canal as part of her own military equipment. As no counter offer is made by the British government, all previous negotiations fall through, and any further action in the matter must be proposed by the United States and must begin anew. Great Britain retires upon her rights under the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

For several days public sentiment in Great Britain has been hopefully excited with reports of the expected surrender of Gen. Botha, who commands the Boer forces in the eastern Transvaal. It will be remembered that the British under Gen. French have for many weeks been pushing Botha eastward between the two railways running, one from Pretoria to Lourenzo Marquez and the other from Johannesburg to Durban. At the time of our last report regarding this movement (page 746) Botha had broken away from French's pursuit and gone with 2,000 men in the direction of Koomatipoort, on the Portuguese border. After that report nothing was heard of him until the 8th, when a censored newspaper dispatch told of a personal meeting at Middleburg, on the 27th—about the time of Botha's reported escape from French's net—between Botha and Lord Kitchener, at which negotiations were begun that resulted in an armistice to Botha to enable him to consult with the other Boer generals with a view to terminating the war by a surrender. The armistice was to expire on the 14th. Kitchener's terms were said to be amnesty for all Boers laying down their arms, and for all prisoners except British subjects. The surrender was expected to take place on the 11th. These reports are entirely without official confirmation, except an admission by Mr. Balfour on the floor of the house of commons and in answer to questions, that communications have passed between Gen. Botha and the British authorities.ques-

tioned again on the 12th, Balfour declined for the present to furnish any information regarding the negotiations. In behalf of President Kruger it is officially announced that he will ignore them.

In other parts of the theater of war military operations continue. Gen. DeWet, who was headed for Fauresmith at the time of our last report, has passed through that town with a small force. He appears to be skirting Bloemfontein to the west and making for Kroonstad, which is far north of Bloemfontein and on the railroad. He was heard of on the 12th from a point above Brandfort. Other bodies of Boers are operating in the southeastern part of the Orange Free State. One holds a position at Rouxville, 25 miles north of Aliwal North. President Steyn is reported to be at Smithfield, a few miles northwest of Rouxville. Another has taken a place called Pearston, not definitely located by the reports, but which was supposed to have been safely guarded against Boer attack. And at Lichtenburg, in the western Transvaal and somewhat east of Mafeking, still another body of Boers have made an all day fight, in which there were serious losses on both sides. British reinforcements arriving, the Boers were finally repulsed.

A delegate convention of European and American pro-Boer organizations held in Paris has drafted a manifesto protesting against British violation of the laws of war in South Africa and appealing to the nations to intervene in behalf of the independence of the South African republics.

From the Philippines as well as from South Africa the principal news of the week relates to surrenders of native defenders to foreign power. Gen. MacArthur reported on the 11th the surrender of Gen. Marian de Dios with several officers and a force of men, an event which he regards as "important and indicating the collapse of the insurrection" once more. Another Filipino to surrender is Maj. Pulay, commanding a small force in southern Luzon. Still another is Col. Bopen. Captures of members of the Filipino cabinet are also reported. Provincial organization is being still extended by the Taft commission. The Filipinos who have been deported to the island of

Guam are ordered to be held there "under surveillance or in actual custody, as circumstances may require, during the further progress of hostilities and until such time as the restoration of normal peace conditions in the Philippines has resulted in a public declaration of the termination of such hostilities."

The Cuban situation has undergone no substantial change. Secret sessions of the constitutional convention have been held, and it is known that the American demands have been referred to a special committee with instructions to report. After considering for several days the authority of the convention to bind the future government of Cuba as to these demands, this special committee, or, strictly speaking, a member of it, was instructed by Gov. Gen. Wood that the convention has such authority. The response was a request that Gov. Gen. Wood put his opinion in writing and submit it officially. This he has done, but his letter is regarded only as an expression of opinion. Gen. Gomez has advised against submitting to the American demands.

Of popular sentiment in Cuba on the question of the American demands, the following placard, which has been extensively posted in Havana, is indicative:

To the People of the United States: Do not make any promises that you are not sure to keep, and never go back on the word you have given.

George Washington.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—The Delaware legislature has adjourned without electing a federal senator.

—President Diaz of Mexico is reported to be hopelessly insane. The report is positively denied.

—Paris Gibson was on the 8th elected federal senator from Montana for the term ending in 1905.

—The formal excommunication of Tolstoi from the Greek church was officially published on the 9th.

—The Indiana senate on the 7th killed the woman suffrage amendment which the house had adopted.

—The lower house of Arkansas passed a bill on the 11th which prohibits trusts from doing business in that state.

—A bill prohibiting prosecutions for polygamy has been passed by the legislature of Utah. It is known as the Evans bill.

—Chris L. Magee, a Pennsylvania