

were obliged to weaken their center, and it was a direct attack by Roberts upon this weak point that forced them to retreat.

From the British point of view the most satisfactory information is Lord Roberts's announcement that he has relieved 3,200 British prisoners, and that communication between himself and Gen. Buller has been at last effected. The latter result appears to have followed a battle fought on the 13th by Gen. Buller at Almond's nek, about 12 miles from Volksrust, which is in the Transvaal just over the Natal line and on the railway from Ladysmith to Johannesburg. The Boer line of battle, eight miles in length, was posted across Buller's line of march. After some hours of fighting, the last hour and a half of which was heavy, the Boers, finding themselves in danger of being surrounded, retreated. Gen. Buller does not report the capture of any of their equipment, though they had used artillery against him.

In consequence of the British annexation of the Orange Free State, President Steyn has issued a proclamation declaring that the government of the Free State still exists as an independent sovereignty, and that it does not acknowledge the authority of Great Britain.

Political conditions in Cape Colony have been vitally affected by the Boer war. Cape Colony belongs to the class of British colonies that are allowed "responsible government." That is, though the queen appoints the governor and reserves a veto power over legislation, the legislature, through a responsible ministry like that of Canada or England herself, really governs. The governor of Cape Colony is Sir Alfred Milner, and the prime minister has been W. P. Schreiner, the leader of the Afrikaner party, to which the Dutch and their sympathizers are as a rule attached. Mr. Schreiner's compromising policy with reference to the war has been such that many of his own party became dissatisfied with his government. His only chance of remaining in office, therefore, would have been through the support of the opposition, or Cecil Rhodes's party. This support he was unwilling to accept, and so he and his colleagues in the ministry resigned. Milner urged him to reconsider his action, but Mr.

Schreiner declined to do so. This obliged Milner to act, and he asked Sir John Gordon Sprigg to form a new ministry, with the following result:

Prime minister and treasurer, Sir John Gordon Sprigg; attorney general, J. Rose-Innes; colonial secretary, Thomas Lynedock Graham; minister without portfolio, J. Frost; secretary for agriculture, Sir Peter Hendrix Faure; commissioner of public works, J. H. Smartt.

All of these appointees, except the attorney general, are described as political "hacks" of Cecil Rhodes. A deputation of the Afrikaner party left Cape Town on the 20th for England to plead for the continued independence of the fighting republics. The Rhodes party is arranging to send out a rival deputation.

From the other British war in South Africa, that in Ashanti, of the origin and progress of which we gave an account last week at page 152, nothing further has been heard except that another battle with the British relief expedition has been fought. No details are given. The Second battalion of the West India negro regiment is under orders from London to go to Ashanti, and the volunteer infantry of Jamaica, also composed of negroes, has been invited by Great Britain to go along. The latter corps had volunteered to fight the Boers, but their services were rejected because it was deemed inexpedient to pit negroes against a white enemy. The invitation to go to Ashanti, which is offered by way of making amends, is reported to have been received by the Jamaica regiment with great enthusiasm. British Guiana also is sending volunteers to Ashanti.

NEWS NOTES.

—Fire destroyed the greater portion of the business district of Bloomington, Ill., on the 19th. The loss has been estimated to be in excess of \$2,500,000.

—Brig. Gen. Joseph Wheeler has been assigned to the command of the department of the lakes, with headquarters at Chicago. Gen. Wheeler goes on the retired list in September.

—A Congregational minister, Rev. A. Murman, who was pastor of a Montreal church, was compelled on the 17th to resign his charge because he refused to pray for Queen Victoria and the success of the English army.

—Wheat for July delivery continues to advance, in consequence of adverse

crop reports from the northwest, and on the 21st was freely bought at 81 cents, which is an increase of more than 14 cents over the price of two weeks ago.

—Francis of Orleans, prince of Joinville, died in Paris on the 17th from an attack of pneumonia, aged 82 years. He was the son of the late Louis Philippe, king of France, and was attached to Gen. McClellan's staff during the American civil war.

—Arrangements have been perfected for the organization of democratic clubs in all of the leading universities and colleges, to participate in the fall campaign. Clubs are already in existence in several colleges, notably in Yale and Ann Arbor.

—The widow of W. E. Gladstone, the illustrious English statesman, died at Hawarden on the 14th, aged 88 years. The funeral ceremony, which was simple but impressive, was held in Westminster Abbey, where Mrs. Gladstone was interred beside her husband.

—English workingmen have subscribed \$20,000 for the purpose of founding a labor college in the United States, along the lines of the Ruskin hall experiment at Oxford, which was founded by Americans. The principal subjects to be taught will be constitutional history, social science and political economy.

—The fiftieth convention of the North American Turner bund closed its sessions in Philadelphia on the 20th after adopting resolutions in which the imperialistic policy of the administration was denounced and territorial expansion by methods of war declared to be "opposed to civilization and an act of brute force."

—The Irish national convention opened its sessions in Dublin on the 19th. More than 3,000 delegates, representing every important political organization in Ireland, were in attendance, and the utmost harmony prevailed. The platform of the United Irish league was ratified. John Redmond presided.

—The international automobile race from Paris to Lyons, a distance of 344 miles, was won by Charron's French machine, which maintained an average speed of 62 miles per hour. Winton's machine, the American entry, although fast, proved to be of too light construction, and withdrew from the race after a series of breakdowns.

—The supreme court of Michigan has sustained the constitutionality of an act of the last legislature creating a state tax commission and giving it authority to review local assessments, to increase individual assessments if deemed inadequate, and to add omitted assessments. The decision directs the Grand Rapids assessors to turn their assessment rolls over to the new tax commission for revision.