

hatted, frock-coated, middle-aged and ordinarily staid citizens paraded the streets, arm in arm, waving flags, blowing trumpets and whistles, singing patriotic songs, and acting altogether as if they were mad or drunk. They were neither. They were only unduly elated and unable to give their enthusiasm any more dignified expression.

Public opinion regarding the war is being aroused in the United States by the appearance here of the peace convoys from South Africa—Messrs. Wessels, Fischer and Wolmarans. They were given an official and popular reception at New York on the 17th at the city hall. In welcoming them Mayor Van Wyck said:

I am delighted to welcome you to the city of New York and to be able to assure you that wherever you go in free America you will receive a cordial welcome from the liberty-loving people of this country. I desire to inform you that the representatives of the city of New York have asked me to extend to you a welcome, and that the municipal assembly has adopted resolutions tendering you the freedom of the city. Never since I have been in the mayor's office has a more pleasant duty devolved upon me than to welcome you in behalf of this free people and to assure you that you have their full sympathy.

Mr. Fischer responded:

We believe that no people can understand what it is to struggle for freedom except a people which has gained its liberty by such a struggle. We have been told to avoid intemperance, the pitfalls of party cliques and political entanglements, and we can say that to-day we are as ignorant of all party cliques as on the day of our arrival. Our appeal is to no faction, to no party, but to the whole American people, and we prefer to believe that the splendid welcome that has been given us voices the feeling of all classes alike. We cannot think that our mission to seek for our country peace with honor will be unsuccessful.

From New York the Boer envoys went to Washington, where they were received upon their arrival on the 18th by a committee of congressmen, senators and leading citizens. A mass meeting was held in their honor on the 20th. The audience, large and enthusiastic, was presided over by Congressman Sulzer, of New York, a democrat. It was addressed by Bourke Cockran, one of the leading McKinley orators of the campaign of 1896; by Senator Teller, of Colorado, a silver republican; and by Senator

Mason, of Illinois, and Senator Wellington, of Maryland, both republicans. The envoys spoke in response. Meetings of a similar character are being arranged throughout the country.

On the 21st the Boer envoys were accorded an informal and entirely unofficial interview with the secretary of state. According to the latter's subsequent account of the interview, they expressed a desire that the United States should intervene in the interest of peace. To this the secretary replied that while the president regretted the suffering and sacrifices of both combatants, he could do nothing but preserve strict neutrality. By way of showing that the president had exhausted his powers of inoffensive intervention the secretary recalled the request for intervention some weeks ago, made by the two South African republics, and said:

The president at once directed me to convey the substance of this telegram to the British government, and in communicating this request I was directed by him to express his earnest hope that a way to bring about peace might be found, and to say that he would be glad to aid in any friendly manner to promote so happy a result. The Transvaal government was at the same time informed of the president's action in the matter. Our representative in London promptly communicated the president's instruction to Lord Salisbury. In answer he was requested to thank the president for the friendly interest shown by him, and Lord Salisbury added that her majesty's government could not accept the intervention of any power. This communication also was immediately transmitted to our consul at Pretoria to be communicated to the president of the South African Republic. So far as we are informed the United States was the only government in the world of all those approached by the South African republics which tendered its good offices to either of the combatants in the interest of a cessation of hostilities.

An interview with President McKinley was obtained on the following day. This also was an informal, personal visit, the object of the coming of the envoys to this country being only briefly referred to. The president prevented any discussion by informing his visitors that the response made to them by Secretary Hay on the previous day must be regarded as final.

Meanwhile, some members of the senate had endeavored to secure for the

Boer envoys informal recognition by that body. A resolution was offered on the 21st by Senator Allen extending to them the privileges of the floor. It was antagonized by Senator Davis, and lost by a vote of 36 to 21. Mason and Wellington alone among the republicans voted for it. Morgan was the only democrat to vote against it.

From the Philipines the news is still of fighting. On the Island of Samar; at Catarma, May 1, there was a skirmish in which three Americans are said to have been wounded and 209 Filipinos killed. Six days later, at Pambugan, on the same island, the Americans report that they killed 75 Filipinos without any loss to themselves. On the Island of Mindanao a fight has occurred in the hills near Aquasan in which two Americans and 51 natives were killed. This conflict was not with Filipinos. It was with Mohammedan subjects of the sultan of Sulu. Another occurred near Cotobatto, also on the Island of Mindanao, where an American detachment had been sent to preserve the peace at a conference between two hostile chiefs. At last reports reinforcements were on the way to support this detachment. In the southern provinces of Luzon the Americans are unable to maintain order. They occupy a few coast towns there, but are surrounded by Filipinos, who constantly assail the garrisons, which are too small to operate in the surrounding country. Gen. Bell, in command of the hemp provinces in that region, has consequently been obliged to suspend Gen. Otis's order to organize municipal governments there. Referring to this embarrassing situation, dispatches from Manila state that several regiments are needed to control each southern province of Luzon, but that there are none to spare from their present stations.

Aguinaldo has been heard from in what purports to be a proclamation issued by him on the 4th of May from Pilillo island, which is adjacent to the eastern coast of Luzon. It is being circulated in Manila. This proclamation declares that the American commission, of which Judge Taft is chairman, has been appointed by President McKinley without authority from congress, and that it is therefore without lawful power to bind the American government in its dealings with the Filipinos. They are accordingly warned not to surrender their arms upon any promises of the

commission, for congress may refuse to ratify the promises. But the proclamation urges them to welcome the commission enthusiastically in the various towns and provinces, and to ask boldly for the form of government they most desire. It closes with an appeal to the people to still strive for liberty and independence.

American casualties in the Philippines since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out at Washington to May 23, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900, (see page 91)	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900	2
Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900,	23
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Total deaths since July 1, 1898.....	1,872
Wounded	2,129
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Total casualties since July 1, 1898.....	4,001
Total casualties reported last week	3,973
Total deaths reported last week.....	1,847

In the Cuban postal defalcation, of which an introductory account was given last week, there are no very important developments except of details. Neely has been arrested on a criminal charge pending extradition proceedings and admitted to bail in \$20,000. He has been arrested also in a civil action brought by the United States to recover \$45,300.25 of public monies which he is charged with appropriating. In this proceeding he has been committed to Ludlow Street jail, New York city, in default of \$50,000 bail. To clear the way for his removal to Cuba for trial on the criminal charge, the judiciary committee of the lower house of congress agreed upon an extradition measure, which the house passed on the 23d. It adds to the existing law a provision that—

whenever any foreign country or territory or any part thereof is occupied by the United States, any person who shall violate or who has violated any of the criminal laws in force therein and who shall depart or flee or who has departed or fled from justice therein to the United States, shall, when found therein, be liable to arrest and detention by the authorities of the United States, and on written request or requisition of the authorities in control of such foreign country or territory shall be returned and surrendered as hereinafter provided to the authorities in control of such foreign country or

territory for trial under the laws in force in the place where such offense was committed.

There is no political news of general interest in the United States, but in France it now appears that the triumph of the nationalists or military party in Paris, reported on pages 71 and 92, was purely local and its effect upon national politics of no importance. Though the nationalists secured a majority in the Paris council they were defeated overwhelmingly in the provinces. Out of 33,942 communes thus far heard from (the total number being 36,170), they won only 153. Other reactionaries won 8,519, while the result in 438 has not been definitely reported in this country. The supporters of the republic won 24,832.

Closely following these elections the French parliament reassembled on the 22d, after a six weeks' recess, and the ministry submitted to an interpellation on its general policy. Conceding that the Paris elections were a rebuff to the republican idea, the prime minister, Waldeck-Rousseau, pointed to the elections in the provinces as a triumph for the republic, and outlined the following ministerial programme: A law for the protection of the president from calumniators; a law to prevent the accumulation of property by religious associations; laws for promoting education; direct taxation; pensions for workingmen. He closed with the declaration that if this programme did not secure a majority the ministry would resign. By a vote of 439 to 56 it was then ordered that "the chamber is resolved to energetically pursue a policy of reforms and the defense of the republic and laity;" and by 271 to 226 that the chamber "approves of the declaration of the government."

In English politics the Australian question, explained on page 92, appears to have been amicably settled. Mr. Chamberlain, as noted on page 92, introduced the Australian commonwealth in parliament on the 17th with an amendment preserving rights of appeal to an appellate court of the empire; and the bill, so amended, passed its first reading. It came up for second reading on the 21st, when Mr. Chamberlain announced an agreement with the Australian representatives. The agreement was to the effect that an appeal from the highest court of the Australian common-

wealth may be taken to the queen's privy council in every case in which both parties to the litigation consent, and also where other than Australian interests are concerned; but in all other cases the Australian legislature is to be free to adopt any course it pleases. This modification, while it holds Australia in subordination to the empire by a slender legal thread, thereby satisfying Mr. Chamberlain's requirement, is a substantial victory for the Australian delegates.

Quite as important in some respects was the action of the London county council on the 22d. That body then demanded the surrender of their franchises by the street car companies of three parishes, embracing about 20 miles of track, and announced its intention of hereafter requiring possession of street car properties as fast as their franchises expire. The council intends to place all the lines in the county under public ownership. No new franchises will be given, and the only question that agitates the council now is whether to lease the lines or subject them to public operation.

England is undergoing the troubles of a great lockout at Staffordshire which threatens the pottery supply. Some 20,000 operatives, representing every department of pottery work, are idle. Production is consequently at a complete standstill. The cause of the lockout was a small strike in one establishment for the restoration of the wages that were reduced a penny in the shilling 20 years ago. To defeat this strike the employers combined and declared a lockout. They refuse even to consider the workmen's demand before autumn, and thus far every attempt at arbitration has been without result.

A street car strike in Berlin, which was ended in two days, was violent enough while it lasted. It broke out on the 19th. For two days the 6,000 strikers tied up the lines. Their weapons were stones, and the blank cartridges of the armed police failed to disperse them. But on the 21st the chief burgomaster of Berlin intervened. His mediation was accepted by both sides, and through his influence most of the demands of the strikers, though they had been stubbornly rejected for weeks, were granted.

The St. Louis street car strikers, of whose strike we have told on pages