

it opens the door to additional corruption and blackmail.

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**NEWS**

The military situation in South Africa is practically unchanged since our report of last week, when the Boers were attacking Wepener. British reports from Bloemfontein on the 13th described the Boers as in full retreat from this point, but this was contradicted on the 17th by reports from Boer sources; and on the 18th Lord Roberts reported Wepener as still surrounded. He declared, however, that the Boers were now fighting half-heartedly and exhibiting uneasiness about the security of their communications. For their uneasiness there would seem to be reason. Lord Roberts is reported to have "spread his net far and wide" to catch the Boer detachments that are operating before Wepener and throughout the southeastern part of the Orange Free State; and on the 17th his forces were said to be converging. His forward movement to Pretoria is at a standstill. The explanation offered is lack of horses.

Gen. Gatacre has been called home for incompetency, and Gen. Chermenside assigned to his command. This change made a slight sensation in London; but it was followed by one of much greater proportions, caused by the first publication, on the 18th, by war office authority, of a dispatch written by Lord Roberts as far back as February 13, and which had been in the possession of the war office for five weeks. Lord Roberts in this dispatch very freely criticised both Gen. Buller and Gen. Warren for the Natal campaign for the relief of Ladysmith. The publication of the dispatch at this time is regarded as intended either to force the resignation, or prepare the public mind for the recall, of both Warren and Buller.

On the 15th the Boer peace delegation, consisting of Messrs. Fischer, Wolmarans and Wessels, arrived at The Hague. These delegates were first mentioned in these columns at page 7 of No. 104, as being on their way to some of the European capitals and Washington to negotiate for intervention in behalf of the independence of the two republics. They

were received at The Hague enthusiastically with cheers and cries of "Long live the Transvaal and the Orange Free State."

The Boer general, Cronje, with his family and staff were landed on the 14th at St. Helena, as prisoners of war. Other Boer prisoners of war were landed at the same time, and others still were reported as having been sent to St. Helena from Cape Town. The Boers complain of this disposition of prisoners, asserting that the humid atmosphere of St. Helena means death to men accustomed to the dry climate of the African veldts, and they threaten to retaliate.

American casualties in the Philippines since August 6, 1898, inclusive of all official reports given out at Washington to April 18, 1900, are as follows:

Killed .....	473
Died of wounds, disease and accidents .....	1,205
<b>Total deaths .....</b>	<b>1,678</b>
Wounded .....	2,092
<b>Total loss .....</b>	<b>3,770</b>
Total loss reported last week....	3,725
Total deaths reported last week..	1,653

In the Philippines, the petty warfare of which we wrote last week continues. On the 16th 300 Filipino riflemen and bolomen had attacked the American garrison at Batoc, in the province of North Ilocos—which is in the northwest of Luzon—and were repulsed. A few days before this an American detachment had surrounded a Filipino recruiting village in Benguet province—on the western coast, about half way further down toward Manila—and after capturing several prisoners had burned the village. Another American capture was that of Gen. Montenegro, who, with Gen. Macabulos, had been trying to reorganize the Filipino army in the province of Pangasinan, which is on the same coast, still farther south. Montenegro surrendered, but Macabulos escaped. Along with these reports came others of futile attacks by Filipinos upon San Jose, in the province of Batangas, which is on the southern coast, and Santa Cruz on the lake. On the island of Mindanao, the most southerly of the group, at Cagayen, the Americans were attacked on the 7th. A street fight of 20 minutes' duration fol-

lowed, in which the Filipinos were worsted and withdrew to the mountains.

The Philippine question was elaborately and impressively discussed in the senate on the 17th by Senator Hoar. The extracts and descriptions given by the daily press indicate that Mr. Hoar's speech was one of great power and eloquence and the occasion historic. His references to Aguinaldo and his compatriots were brave and discriminating. Aguinaldo he ranked with "that small band who have given life and everything dearer than life to their country in a losing cause," and predicted that "he would live with Kossuth, with Oom Paul, with Joubert, with Emmet, with Egmont and Horn, with Nathan Hale, with Warren, with all the great martyrs of history whose blood has been the seed of the church of liberty." And as one indication of the qualifications of the Filipinos for self government Mr. Hoar declared that—

the state papers of Aguinaldo, the discussion of the law of nations by his attorney-general, the masterly appeal of Mabini, are products of the Asiatic mind. They are not unworthy of the Asiatic mind, the vehicle through which came to us the scriptures of the old and new testament, the poetry of David, the eloquence of Isaiah, the wisdom of Solomon, the profound philosophy of Paul.

The most dramatic feature of Mr. Hoar's speech appears to have been an imaginary roll call of distinguished Americans voting on the question of imperialism. It began with Washington, who briefly gave his reasons and voted "No," and ended with McKinley, who was made to say:

There has been a cloud before my vision for a moment, but I see clearly now; I go back to what I said two years ago: "Forcible annexation is criminal aggression; governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, not of some of them, but all of them." I will stand with the fathers of the republic. I will stand with the founders of the republican party. No.

Aaron Burr alone answered "Yes," explaining: "You are repeating my buccaneering expedition down the Mississippi; I am to be vindicated at last."

It was not expansion that Mr. Hoar argued against but imperialism. He found authority enough in the declaration of independence for expansion, but, he said, this is—  
the expansion of freedom and not of