

followed by recommendations for liberal pensions and the maintenance of the efficiency of the civil service, together with an objection to the attempts in the south to nullify the fifteenth amendment and a declaration approving the rural free delivery postal service and the irrigation of arid lands. Early statehood is promised New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma; and the construction, ownership, control and protection of an isthmian canal by the government are urged. A new cabinet office is proposed, to have charge of commercial affairs, including the consular system. Hawaiian annexation, the Samoan arrangement, and the part taken by the government in the Hague peace conference are approved; while the president is commended for offering friendly services in settlement of the British war in South Africa, and hopes of an honorable peace are expressed. The platform closes with a presentation of the question of expansion. In this respect it rests the obligations of the government upon the necessity of destroying Spain's sovereignty throughout the West Indies and in the Philippine islands. And promising to secure to the Filipinos by law "the largest measure of self government consistent with their welfare and our duties," the platform guarantees the performance to the letter of the pledge of independence and self government made by the United States to Cuba.

It had long been a foregone conclusion that President McKinley would be the unanimous nominee of the republican convention for president, and the only nominating contest was over the vice presidency. For this place Gov. Roosevelt was supported by Senator Thomas C. Platt, the manager of republican politics in New York, and by Senator Quay, the manager in Pennsylvania. He was opposed by Senator Hanna, Mr. McKinley's manager, and was not himself a candidate. Though he refused to declare that he would decline if nominated, he insisted that he could serve both his party and the country better by becoming a candidate for re-election as governor of New York. Besides Roosevelt, the leading possibilities in advance of the convention were Congressman Dolliver, Secretary Long, Lieut. Gov. Woodruff, of New York, and Secretary Bliss. But before the making of nominations, which were delayed until the 21st, Mr. Hanna had acquiesced in Roosevelt's nomination; and the close of the convention saw McKinley and Roosevelt nominated by acclamation.

Democratic politics were comparatively quiescent upon the eve of the republican convention and during its sessions. But as the Ohio convention on the 13th, and the conventions of Missouri, Kentucky, Vermont, Georgia and California on the 15th instructed for Bryan, the two-thirds vote necessary to nominate him for president is now assured.

Down in Cuba the first popular elections since the Spanish regime took place on the 16th under American direction. These elections had been postponed from May, when they were originally to have been held. Their object was the choice of mayor, municipal councils, treasurers, municipal judges and correctional judges, for the 200 municipalities, or thereabouts, into which Cuba is districted. Some of these municipalities are cities and some are townships, but the scheme of government is the same for all. The suffrage was limited, by American military order, to males 21 years of age—Spanish subjects excluded—who can read and write, or who own \$250 worth of property, or who served in the Cuban army. In preparation for the election political parties formed. They differed somewhat in character and purpose in different localities, but upon the whole they might be classified as the republican party and the national party. The republican party stands for a federation of the provinces, and is in some economic matters disposed to be radical. It offers a complete programme of government. While supporting independence for the island, it does not push that question to the front. The national party stands for making of Cuba a compact nation, and emphasizes the demand for early independence. Gen. Gomez is identified with this party. When the elections came off perfect order prevailed throughout the island. In Havana the nationalists elected their entire ticket. Gen. Alejandro Rodriguez, their candidate for mayor received 13,073 votes, against 6,034 for his adversary. Cubans point to these elections as a demonstration of their ability to regulate their own affairs in orderly fashion, and of the sentiment of a majority among them in favor of absolute independence.

From the Philippines there is but little news. American scouting is evidently going on, and Americans are killing and being killed. The latest reports give the casualties for the

week ending the 17th as 60 Filipinos killed and 200 captured, and three Americans killed. Great expectations are based upon the promulgation to be made on the 21st, of President McKinley's proclamation of amnesty, wherein he offers a free pardon to all Filipinos (ladrones excepted) who will take the oath of allegiance to the United States and acknowledge the sovereignty of its government. The proclamation has not yet been made public as we write.

American casualties in the Philippines since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in detail at Washington to May 30, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900, (see page 91) .....	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900, .....	15
Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900, .....	69
Total deaths since July 1, 1898.....	1,931
Wounded .....	2,168
Total casualties since July, 1898..	4,099
Total casualties reported last week .....	4,079
Total deaths reported last week..	1,927

Though news from the American war in the Philippines is meager, that is not altogether so of the war in South Africa. On the 20th a force of Boers was reported as gathering in front of Gen. Rundle, in the region of Ficksburg, which is in the Orange Free State near the Basutoland border and almost due east from Brandfort. Gen. Rundle commands the right wing of Lord Roberts's army of invasion. This move on the part of the Boers was preceded, according to reports, by an attack upon Rundle's outposts. But there are no further details.

A battle was supposed, at the time of our last report, to have been in progress on the 11th, about 15 miles east of Pretoria, on the Middleburg road. The next news from that point came from Lord Roberts, under date of the 13th. He said that during the preceding night the Boers, who were under command of Botha, had evacuated their position and retired farther east. The fighting had lasted all through the 12th. It was a battle altogether of 30 hours, at the end of which time the Boers effected a retreat with all their equipment. In this battle the Boers successfully met Lord Roberts's flank attacks; but to do so

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.