

ence to an insinuation by one Reinach that the ministry had agreed that the Dreyfus case should be reopened after the Paris exposition, provided the friends of Dreyfus would be quiet meanwhile. The premier denied any such agreement. His speech was interrupted with a disorderly outbreak which necessitated a suspension of the proceedings. It is described as one of the most disorderly ever witnessed in the chamber. A vote of confidence in the ministry was carried by 288 to 247. Two days later the minister of war, Gen. Gallifet, resigned, and Gen. Andre was appointed in his place.

Hints of a cordition which may afford the civilized powers their coveted excuse for an invasion and parcelling out of China are getting into the news in half intelligible form. A Chinese secret society, known to the dispatches as the "boxers," is regarded as heralding a movement against foreigners. A demand for the suppression of this society was made on the 24th upon the Chinese government by the Spanish minister, who threatened that if that were not done all the powers concerned would land troops in China. On the 27th the diplomatic corps at Peking agreed to ask the Chinese foreign office to define explicitly the measures the government had taken, if any, for the suppression of the "boxers." The Peking correspondent of the London Times telegraphed on the 30th that opinion is widespread that the powers should compel China to defray the expense caused by the summoning of foreign guards for the protection of the legations, that measure having been necessitated by the apathy of the Chinese government. Among the foreign guards so summoned is a party of marines from the United States cruiser Newark, at the port of Taku. All the foreign ships at this port landed marines on the 29th and prepared to march to their respective legations in Peking, but were refused permission by the Chinese government to pass the Taku forts. Serious concern for the safety of Americans in China is expressed at Washington, and the American government has instructed its minister to warn the Chinese government to stamp out the "boxers" promptly and thoroughly and to provide proper guarantees for the maintenance of peace and order and the protection of the life and property of Americans in China.

To what extent the "boxers" is an organization for the extermination of foreigners in China, or whether that is its real import at all, cannot be told. Its purpose and origin are probably unknown to foreigners even in China, and only wild guesses at the matter can be made in this country upon such data as comes to light in the press. Probably the society is something like the old kuklux clan of our own southern states, which was organized to "regulate" an objectionable race and not primarily to affect political conditions. The Chinese have undoubtedly been oppressed by aliens, and not unnaturally they hate foreigners intensely and without discrimination. This hatred may very well have inspired organization for protection against real or fancied wrongs or for revenge; and having met with some successes, the organization may have developed into a revolutionary movement. Whatever may have been the origin of the "boxers," however, they are represented now as destroying railroad tracks and bridges and threatening a massacre of foreigners at Peking. In a skirmish with imperial Chinese troops on the 29th not only were they victorious but many of the imperial soldiers joined them. They are believed to have the sympathy of the empress dowager.

Rioting still characterizes the St. Louis street car strike. In that respect the situation has been worse this week than before. It is now more than three weeks since the strike began, but the tie-up is so nearly complete that business in the city is paralyzed. No attempt is made to run cars at night, and the service is next to useless in the daytime.

NEWS NOTES.

—Sig. Guiseppe del Puerte, the once famous baritone, died at his home in Philadelphia on the 25th from apoplexy. He was 60 years old.

—Japan has joined China in a strong protest against the compulsory inoculation of their subjects in San Francisco with anti-plague serum.

—Chief Justice Albert F. Judd, of Hawaii, died on the 20th at his home near Honolulu, aged 62 years. He was born in Honolulu and was a graduate of Yale.

—A. J. Auchterlonie, one of the editors of the "New Earth" and well known throughout the east as a follower of Henry George, died suddenly on the 29th in New York from heart disease.

—A total eclipse of the sun occurred on the morning of the 28th, lasting for nearly two hours. The path of the totality in this country was a strip 50 miles in width from Norfolk, Va., to New Orleans.

—Gen. E. S. Otis, who arrived in San Francisco from Manila on the 30th, has been promoted to the rank of major general by the president, and will succeed Gen. Merritt, who retires on the 16th.

—The Welland canal dynamiters, Dullman, Walsh and Nolan, charged in Canada with blowing up a lock of the Welland canal, were sentenced to imprisonment for life on the 25th. The trial failed to confirm the Canadian suspicion of a Fenian plot.

—The United States supreme court decided on the 28th that the naval force under Admiral Dewey at the battle of Manila was not inferior to the Spanish fleet, a decision which cuts down the award of prize money to Dewey and his men from \$4,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

—The annual convention for North America of the Church of New Jerusalem, commonly known as the Swedenborgian, closed its sessions at Cincinnati on the 29th. Rev. S. S. Seward, of New York, was elected president and Rev. L. P. Mercer, of Chicago, vice president.

—The Methodist general conference closed the sessions of a memorable conference at Chicago on the 29th. The conference inaugurated many important and radical changes in the policy of the church, chief among them being lay representation and representation by women delegates.

—Bubonic plague continues its ravages. Rio Janeiro and Port Said, Egypt, report increased fatalities, and San Francisco still maintains a strict quarantine over the Chinatown district, which is surrounded by a double cordon of police. The Chinese have applied to the courts for an order restraining the board of health from continuing the quarantine.

IN CONGRESS.

This report is an abstract of the Congressional Record, and closes with the last issue of that publication at hand upon going to press.

May 21-26, 1900.

Senate.

On the 21st a message from the president was laid before the senate conveying important information relating to the war in the Philippines. The message is printed on page 6,227. Several resolutions were acted on, among them being one by Morgan calling for an investigation of the companies interested in the construction of an inter-oceanic canal in Central America. This was agreed to. It is printed on page 6,230. Allen's resolution, according the privileges of the senate floor to the Boer envoys during their visit in this country, was reject-