

264, is more than ten times a normal death rate. It is higher than the rate in the midst of a plague. What may be the death rate we have imposed upon our Philippine subjects may never be known. For we have gone beyond the British in this species of inhumanity. Not only do we drive the noncombatant population into towns, as the British do, but we have blockaded the island of Leyte, preventing the importation even of food, and the inhabitants are upon the verge of starvation. We are actually starving women and children because their husbands and fathers refuse to surrender their guns to our invading troops.

At first the British spoke of their "reconcentrado" device as philanthropic. They said it was for the purpose of protecting the Boer women, children and noncombatants from the ravages of war. But now Lord Milner, in a letter through his private secretary, published in the London Leader of October 7, admits that this inhuman device was—

adopted purely on military grounds, as a means for hastening the end of the war, which is, after all, the first interest of the refugees themselves.

The military purpose served by the "reconcentrado" is to make the Boers realize that unless they stop fighting their families will be put into plague camps to die off at an enormous rate! It is the same motive that we have in starving the women and children of Leyte. If war is hell, what English word remains to describe this kind of war?

## NEWS

Although this year is in most of the states what the politicians call an "off year" in politics, only a few general elections being held and they as a rule being unimportant, yet one of these general elections, that of Ohio, and one of the municipal elections, the Shepard-Low contest in New York, were of widespread interest and not without general importance.

The New York election has attracted most attention outside. As is well known, the Tammany Hall organization, which controls the Democratic

party in New York city, has long been regarded as disgracefully corrupt. To drive it out of power, a Citizens' Union was recently organized, upon a non-partisan basis, and this Union entered into a fusion with the Republican party of the city. The fusion was perfected through the nomination of a local ticket by the Citizens' Union, and its indorsement by the Republican convention. Before that action, however, conferences between the Citizens' Union and Republican leaders had resulted in an agreement as to the ticket to be so nominated and indorsed. In the course of these negotiations the Republican leaders proposed as candidates for mayor Democrats whom the Citizens' Union could not nominate, at the same time advising the Citizens' Union that the Republican convention would refuse to indorse any Democrat who had supported Bryan for president. Out of this situation came the nomination of Seth Low, then president of Columbia university. Mr. Low is a Republican. He was once mayor of Brooklyn, and had been defeated for mayor of New York in 1897, when an independent candidate with the Tammany candidate, a Republican candidate and Henry George in the field against him. Other candidates on the fusion ticket were from both parties, the majority being Democrats. One of the Democrats was William Travers Jerome, the fusion candidate for district attorney of New York county. After the fusion nominations, Tammany Hall, as the regular Democratic organization, put forth a ticket with Edward M. Shepard as the candidate for mayor. Mr. Shepard had made a reputation as a vigorous opponent of Tammany methods in politics, and had supported Low in 1897. In accepting the Tammany nomination he formally declared that he retracted nothing. He had opposed Bryan in 1896 but supported him prominently and actively in 1900, and is on the whole as radical a democrat as would be available for high office in a city which is so largely affected in its politics by conservative interests as is New York. The remainder of the Tammany ticket was with few exceptions made up of typical Tammany candidates. After a short but exciting campaign, in which the ordinary political alignments broke bewilderingly, the election came off on the 5th. Low received 296,206 votes and Shepard 265,403, a plurality of 30,803 for Low. The remainder of Low's ticket

in New York county was elected, Jerome getting a plurality of 17,132.

Ohio comes next to New York city in point of general interest in the elections. In that state the principal office to be filled was the governorship. Gov. George K. Nash was the Republican candidate for reelection. His Democratic opponent was James Kilbourne. Both are residents of Columbus, Franklin county. The Republican campaign had been made under the leadership of Senator Hanna, upon the issue of confirming the policies of the late President McKinley and "letting well enough alone;" and in the election of legislative candidates a United States senatorship was involved, the term of Senator Foraker being about to expire. At the election on the 5th Gov. Nash was re-elected by a plurality of 68,145 with one county yet to hear from. This unexpectedly high plurality is about 19,000 higher than his plurality two years ago, and about the same as McKinley's of last year, which is attributed to defections of Bryan men from Kilbourne in resentment for what was widely advertised as a slur cast upon Bryan by the Democratic state convention. In Franklin county, where both candidates live, Mr. Kilbourne's plurality is 2,500, an increase of 800 over the Democratic plurality in 1899. But in Hamilton, the Cincinnati county, where John R. McLean resides, the Democratic plurality of 1,000 two years ago for McLean, has disappeared and Nash carries the county by about 4,000. The legislative delegation from that county is also all Republican, whereas two years ago but two Republicans were elected. Not only is Gov. Nash re-elected by an increased plurality, but the Republicans have carried the legislature by a large majority. About the only encouragement for Democrats which the Ohio election has to offer, besides the gratifying vote for Kilbourne in his own county, comes from Cleveland.

Cuyahoga is the Cleveland county. The situation there has been unique since Tom L. Johnson's election as mayor, on the Democratic ticket, by 6,000 plurality, where the usual majority is well up in the thousands the other way. Mayor Johnson confined the campaign to questions of equitable taxation; and the Democratic candidates for the legislature were pledged to devote themselves to this reform. The

campaign was more exciting here than anywhere else in the state, though a campaign on economic issues. The county is normally strongly Republican. In 1897 the Republican candidates carried it by over 5,000 plurality. In 1899 they ran ahead of the Democrats by 14,000, but Mayor Jones, of Toledo, polled more votes than both parties, and so made that an abnormal year. McKinley carried the county in 1900 by nearly 3,000 plurality. The normal Republican plurality on county tickets has been about 7,000. But at the election on the 5th, Kilbourne lost by only 73, that being Nash's plurality, and the entire Democratic county ticket, with the exception of one judiciary candidate, was elected. The Democrats also carried the entire legislative delegation from the county. On county and legislative tickets the Democratic plurality varied from 3,000 to 6,000.

A surprisingly interesting election was that of San Francisco. There were three principal candidates—Republican, Democrat and Union Labor. The nomination of a Union Labor candidate was one of the results of a bitter labor fight (see pp. 298, 411), which broke out in San Francisco last summer. The strikers lost their strike, but it now appears that they did so only to strike at the ballot box. The Trade Union candidate for mayor was Eugene E. Schmitz. He is leader of a small theater orchestra and manager of a machine shop. At no time was he regarded as a very formidable candidate, notwithstanding the bitterness which the strike had engendered. But he was elected by a plurality of several thousand. The labor unions voted solidly for him, and only about half the Democratic vote remained with the Democratic candidate.

Other elections of the 5th, with their results approximately, were:

Iowa, Republican plurality.....	84,245
Pennsylvania, Rep. plurality.....	52,360
Nebraska, Rep. plurality.....	12,000
Massachusetts, Rep. plurality....	71,352
Rhode Island, Rep. plurality.....	6,349
South Dakota, Rep. plurality....	7,000
New Jersey, Rep. plurality.....	10,000
Maryland, Dem.....legislature	
Kentucky, Dem.....legislature	
Virginia, Dem. plurality.....	10,000
Mississippi, Dem. plurality.....	35,000

The Republican plurality in Iowa is about 29,000 more than in 1899 and about that of McKinley in 1900. In

Pennsylvania, the regular Republican (or Quay) ticket overcame a fusion of Democrats and anti-Quay Republicans. The Nebraska contest was over judiciary candidates. The Republican plurality in Massachusetts is more than 30,000 higher than in 1899 and nearly as much less than in 1900. The Democratic candidate for governor of Rhode Island, Dr. Garvin, a well-known New England single tax man, polled an unexpectedly large vote in the cotton factory districts of the state, and reduced the Republican plurality from 9,706 in 1899 and 8,859 in 1900 to 6,349.

Parliamentary politics in Australia are evidently at a boiling point, but the cabled report is too meager to afford a basis for definite explanations. It appears from this report, however, that on the 2d, after a continuous sitting of 27 hours, the lower house of the Commonwealth parliament voted upon a resolution of want of confidence in the ministry, introduced by the opposition leader, Mr. Reid. The resolution was lost by a vote of 39 to 25. In all probability the resolution in question is in some way connected with the tariff controversy, regarding which we told the facts at page 441. As will be observed by reference to that page, an error, due to certain transpositions, was made in the table giving the political complexion of the parliament. The table should have read:

	Senate.	House.
Ministerialists .....	14	42
Opposition .....	22	33

Mr. Reid would seem to have been unable to unite the opposition against the ministry, since he secured only 25 votes in an opposition of 33.

Over in the Philippines the American war still goes on. A battle is reported from the island of Samar, in which 25 Filipinos were killed, 175 houses burned and 5,000 pounds of rice captured by the Americans. No American casualties are reported. Around the Island of Leyte a strict blockade is maintained by the Americans. So strict is it that the people are suffering for want of food, and the presidents of the various towns have explained the situation to Gen. Smith and asked in the name of humanity that this threatened starvation of the inhabitants be relieved; but Gen. Smith replied that the blockade would be continued against the importation of food and be in every way

of the strictest kind, until the people of the island bring in their guns and give the American authorities full information regarding hostile Filipinos. "All the arguments of the officials of the towns," says the dispatch, "were unavailing." The Filipinos in the island of Cebu, so Gen. Hughes reports, have laid "down their arms in good faith." But he states in the same dispatch that affairs are "not yet satisfactory in Bohol island."

Owing to the illness of Gov. Taft, the Philippine commission has appointed Commissioner Wright as vice governor. It has also adopted a local treason ordinance. This ordinance defines treason as giving aid and comfort to the hostile Filipinos, and makes it punishable with death. It also forbids seditious speeches and libels against either the United States government or the colonial government. Strenuous objections to the ordinance were made at a public hearing, but on the 5th the commission adopted it.

The federalist party of the Philippines, which was organized under the patronage of the Americans and in the interest of American sovereignty (vol. iii., p. 680), has been holding a convention at Manila. The object is to arrange for a petition to the American congress asking for autonomy. The sessions of the convention are reported as turbulent and the body as at times almost unmanageable.

Much greater are the difficulties of Great Britain in South Africa even than those the Americans experience with their Philippine conquest. Another serious battle with the Boers is to be added to the number already reported. It was fought on the 30th in the eastern part of the Transvaal, within the area of Botha's operations. During a thick mist, a Boer detachment supposed to have been under the direct command of Botha himself, attacked a British column under Col. Benson. The fight lasted a day and a night. Twelve British officers (including Col. Benson) and 58 men were killed, and 158 wounded. It was the hardest battle and the worst British disaster of the year.

It is now asserted, the report coming from Paris, that on the 15th of September, when Gen. Kitchener's outlawry proclamation (p. 298) against the Boers was to take effect,