

Senators Davis and Frye, Whitelaw Reid and Associate Justice White. The selection of Reid instead of Tracy is understood to be a rebuff to Senator Platt, of New York, Tracy being of Platt's faction in New York and Reid in opposition. The secretary of the commission is Assistant Secretary of State John Moore, and the assistant secretary is J. R. MacArthur.

The feeling between United States officials and the insurgent government of Cuba has perceptibly subsided. This is doubtless due in great measure to the matter of fact way in which the Cubans have assumed that the resolution of congress pledging the United States to leave the island to the government of its people will be faithfully observed. Acting upon that assumption they are unostentatiously organizing their civil government in Havana. The Cuban civil governor of Havana has issued the following proclamation:

To the inhabitants of the territory of Havana: The war is ended. The independence of Cuba, the aim of our revolution, is a fact. But the victory which we have gained in this heroic struggle would be lost if we did not proclaim the fundamental principles of our nationality, harmony and fraternity among all Cubans. In the work of establishing more firmly in our fatherland the republican institutions Cuba asks the aid of all her sons. With the aptitudes, virtues and services of all, the ideal of Cespedes and Marti will become a reality. Let all suspicions disappear, let us all unite in fraternal embrace, and, respecting the laws, let us proceed to the reconstruction of our beloved Cuba.

At Manila a deadly conflict occurred on the 24th, between American soldiers and insurgents. The Americans were clearly to blame. While a corporal and two men of the Utah artillery were on an errand at Cavite, one of the men fired his revolver in the streets. The natives in the vicinity were alarmed and began firing. Dismounted American cavalry were ordered out to stop the disturbance, but its significance was misunderstood by the natives, and the firing became general. The soldier who had caused the trouble was killed in the fight, and five others were wounded, one of them mortally. Four of the natives were killed and several were wounded.

Gen. Merritt has left Manila to attend the peace conference at Paris in

behalf of the United States with reference to the Philippines. He sailed from Hongkong by the China on the 30th. President Aguinaldo also is to have a representative at the Paris conference, to present the cause of the insurgents. Meantime he has issued a proclamation to all foreign powers asking their recognition either of the independence of the Philippines or of belligerent rights for the insurgents.

Regarding the war cloud that has been gathering over Russia and England, there is good reason for believing that England has reversed her policy of the "open door." When last we had occasion to write upon this subject, two weeks ago—at which time we incidentally explained the nature of the conflict between England and Russia—the British ministry had announced that England did not propose to fight for a distributive share of Chinese territory, the "spheres of influence" policy, but would fight for the "open door" policy—for the rights, that is to say, of all British subjects to trade throughout China, by virtue of the old treaty of Tient-sin, upon the same terms as the subjects of the most favored nations. The reversal of this policy is now reported by the London correspondent of the New York Evening Post, upon authority which he regards as satisfactory. According to this correspondent the queen's consent was first obtained to the prosecution of diplomacy up to the point of war. She is strenuous in opposition to war, and the ministry have been hampered by her veto. But Lord Salisbury finally declared to her that he would resign unless she gave him a free hand. Upon her yielding, as it is understood she did, the former ministerial policy was abandoned, and the "spheres of influence" policy substituted. Thereupon, so the report runs, definite proposals were made to Russia to the effect that England would recognize her supremacy in Manchuria provided she would recognize British supremacy in the Yangtse-kiang Valley, her recognition to be accompanied by guarantees of permanency. Over the question of guarantees, so it is said, a hitch arose. What England required by way of guarantee or Russia offered, is not known; but England refused to accept a mere formal recognition as to the British sphere of influence in the Yangtse-kiang. Finally, England

demanded that a satisfactory answer be given by Russia by the 27th. This demand was said to have been tantamount to an ultimatum.

In the nature of things the foregoing account must have been constructed of surmises suggested by percolations from official quarters. It is in no sense really authoritative. Should it prove true, however, a great flood of light will be thrown upon the astounding proposals of Russia for a complete European disarmament. These proposals may be Russia's reply to England's ultimatum. They were embodied in a diplomatic note handed to the foreign diplomats at St. Petersburg on the 24th, three days before the alleged ultimatum expired. The note in question invites a conference of all the powers represented at the court of the czar, for the purpose of considering the possibility of reducing excessive armaments and maintaining the general peace.

The excitement in Paris over the czar's unexpected proposals for universal peace was quickly drowned in the excitement over something more sensational. This was nothing less than the discovery by the French authorities of proof of the innocence of Capt. Dreyfus, of the French army, now a close prisoner on Devil's island, off the coast of Cayenne. At a secret military trial in 1894, Dreyfus had been found guilty of selling to foreign nations plans and descriptions of French forts. He was sentenced to imprisonment for life. In the presence of 5,000 soldiers of all ranks and grades and a crowd of Parisians he was disarmed, his military insignia torn off, and his sword broken. He shouted his innocence, but drums drowned his voice. Finally, he was taken to Devil's island, formerly a leper settlement, where he is now. The case excited the attention of the news-reading world. Among those whose sympathy it evoked was Zola, the novelist. He challenged the verdict of the military tribunal which had convicted Dreyfus and over which Count Esterhazy had presided. His theory was that Dreyfus had been condemned, though innocent, because he was a Jew. Zola's vigorous hounding brought Esterhazy himself under suspicion, and the continued sale of military information proved that at any rate Dreyfus was not the only culprit. But the military ring was