

that of the latter is shifted to Washington, the investigation by the Senate committee into the state of affairs in the Philippines having begun on the 31st. Gov. Taft, who is home from Manila on leave of absence, was the first witness. He is still under examination.

On the 4th Senator Hoar presented a petition to the Senate asking for a suspension of hostilities in the Philippines and an opportunity for the Filipino leaders to be heard by the American government free from the restrictions which have been placed upon them by the American authorities in the archipelago. It is signed by some of the most prominent men in the country, including Carl Schurz, George F. Edmunds, Charles Francis Adams, George S. Boutwell, W. D. Howells, Mark Twain, Bourke Cockran, Bishop Huntington, Bishop Vincent and William Lloyd Garrison. Thirty-six professors at the University of Chicago are among the signers.

The Pan-American Congress, which dissolved at the City of Mexico on the 31st, was the second of its kind. The first met at Washington in 1889. It was convened through the influence of James G. Blaine and established the Bureau of American Republics. The one now in question met at the City of Mexico on the 22d of last October. Official delegations were in attendance from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chili, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Salvador, San Domingo, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The peace treaty of The Hague was in principle unanimously recognized by the conference, and the United States and Mexico were empowered to institute negotiations for the admission of the other American powers to the benefits and responsibilities of that agreement. Besides this, the principle of arbitration as a substitute for war was generally approved, and ten delegations, which, however, are not distinguished in the dispatches, came to an agreement and signed a treaty for compulsory arbitration.

Notwithstanding the success of their litigation to compel the public utilities corporations of Chicago to pay a fair share of taxes (p. 534), the Chicago school-teachers have as yet failed to accomplish their original object of securing a public school fund sufficiently large to protect them

from perennial assaults upon their salaries by the school board. On the 29th the board reduced expenditures \$1,118,697 as compared with last year. The salaries of teachers who have served more than seven years were cut \$75 a year. High school teachers and all employes of the board receiving more than \$1,000 were cut 5 per cent. German was dropped as a regular study and reestablished as a special department. Kindergartens are to be closed next June. Drawing, singing, domestic science and other so-called "fads" were greatly reduced. The number of district superintendents receiving salaries of \$4,500 a year was reduced from 14 to 6. And the cost of fuel is to be reduced from \$250,000 to \$150,000. A large part of this reduction, if not the whole, is necessitated by the refusal of the traction corporations, notwithstanding the court decisions against them, to pay their assessed taxes. They have brought suit to restrain the collection of these taxes. The reduction of teachers' salaries was followed by an indignation meeting of teachers. It issued an address to parents and taxpayers, which concluded in these words:

The teachers have already contributed more than their share toward lightening the city's financial burden, and would not now complain did these retrenchments seem unavoidable. But, with every other department of the city drawing on the current year's tax levy for its maintenance, they resent an economy which so seriously impairs the efficiency of the school system.

The teachers have determined also to bring suit in the Federal court to restrain the collection of taxes from the citizens of Cook county on the same ground that the corporations have brought suit to escape the payment of their taxes. In explanation of this purpose their attorney, I. T. Greenacre, who has won their litigations so far, says:

We shall take their petition and copy it word for word, substituting only "citizens" for "corporations," and then await the decision of the Federal court. What can the court do? Decide one without the other? Not an iota of difference between the positions of the corporation and the citizen can be shown. The Federal court will simply have to decide whether the revenue laws of the state apply to the rich man and the poor man alike. If they do, shall they both pay their taxes or shall they not?

For the past two weeks there has been a commotion in the Methodist

church, originating in the publication of questionable theological doctrines by a university professor at Evanston, Ill., which shows indications now of being brought to a speedy conclusion. The offending professor is Charles W. Pearson, head of the department of English literature at the Methodist educational institution at Evanston known as the Northwestern University. In a published paper entitled "Open Inspiration versus a Closed Canon and Infallible Bible," an answer to the query, "On what basis can Christians unite for aggressive action?" Prof. Pearson criticised the doctrine of infallibility. He said that—

modern preaching lacks truth and power because so many churches cling to the utterly untenable tradition that the bible is an infallible book. This dogma is their besetting sin. It is the golden calf of their idolatrous worship. It is the palpable lie that gives the ring of insincerity to all their moral exhortations.

As examples of biblical errors or allegories he enumerated the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace; the feeding of Elijah by the ravens and his raising of the dead; and the miracle of the loaves and fishes. The objection made by Prof. Pearson is not as to his right to hold these views, but as to his right to publish them while retaining an official position in the Methodist church. On the 21st a committee was appointed by the executive board of the university trustees to consider the matter, and on the 3d Prof. Pearson announced his intention of moving this committee for a decision regarding his standing both in the church and in the university. An informal hearing in the nature of a heresy trial is now in progress, Prof. Pearson having declared that he intends to make no technical defenses but to sever his church and university connections voluntarily if the committee condemns his opinions.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—Leslie M. Shaw, successor as secretary of the treasury to Lyman J. Gage, entered upon his office on the 1st.

—The Standard Oil Company declared a dividend on the 4th, of 20 per cent. for the first quarter of 1902 upon its capitalization of \$100,000,000.

—The question of the power of the state board of railway-tax equalization of Ohio to increase railway taxation raised in the Supreme Court of that State by Mayor Johnson (p.