

surprised, and of whom only 52 escaped, is given in the dispatch as 250.

This British disaster was hardly offset by a victory reported on the 15th over DeWet in the Orange Free State. It occurred on the 6th, and is reported by Kitchener as follows:

After severe fighting captured a convoy of 71 loaded wagons, 45 prisoners, 58 rifles, 10,000 rounds of ammunition and 4,000 cattle. The Boers left 17 killed and three wounded on the field. Our casualties were three officers and 17 men killed, and one officer and 24 men wounded.

The Weyler reconcentrado tactics appear to be in full operation under the British military regime. Replying to questions in the British house of commons on the 17th, the secretary for war acknowledged that there are 40,229 persons in the reconcentrado camps. The deaths among them for the month of May amounted to 98 men and women and 318 children.

In connection with the Boer war a report regarding British war revenues has just come out in London which is not relished by the large uitlander interests of the Transvaal, to the greed of which the war is attributable, although it seems to be quite considerate of them. Sir David Barbour makes the report. He had been sent by the chancellor of the exchequer to South Africa to investigate the sources of revenue of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, with the view of estimating how much they should contribute toward the cost of the war; and he reports that while the Orange Free State will be unable for some years to meet the ordinary cost of administration, the Transvaal will soon be able to make contributions out of its ordinary revenues. He recommends a ten per cent. tax on the net profits of the gold mines. This, he estimates, would leave the mine operators better off than before, as they will save, through the abolition of the dynamite monopoly which the Boers maintained, more than the increased tax.

From the Philippines, the principal news of the week relates to the surrender of Gen. Cailles, the arrangements for which were noted in our last issue. According to the dispatches, two representatives of the Filipino general signed at Manila on the 16th an agreement of surrender in his name. The terms are not re-

ported in any particular except that Gen. Cailles is to assemble his men at Santa Cruz, Laguna province, Luzon, as early as possible, and there deliver himself and his command to the Americans.

Supreme court judges of the Philippines have been appointed by the American Philippine commission at Manila. The chief justice is Cayetano Arellano. Two of his associates are Filipinos and four are Americans. The attorney general is an American. Besides the supreme court judges, appointments were made of 17 judges of as many courts of first instance. Eleven of these judges are Americans. All the appointees were sworn into office on the 17th, the usual pledge to support the constitution of the United States being omitted from the official oath. Steps were taken to secure the adoption of the English language by the courts, but it was arranged that Spanish should be used for five years.

American troubles with Venezuela are again brought to the surface by a substitution of American ministers to that country. The disturbed relations between the United States and Venezuela were described in these columns last winter (vol. iii., p. 682), and commented upon editorially at a later date (vol. iii., p. 705), since which time no reference has been made to the subject, because the press has published little about it but conflicting statements and irresponsible gossip. The troubles grow out of a quarrel between two American business concerns having hostile concessions to certain rich asphalt deposits at Lake Felicidad, in Venezuela. Prior to the triumph of the present revolutionary government in Venezuela, under President Castro, one of these companies, the New York and Bermudeze company of New York city, known commonly as the "Barber syndicate," obtained government grants to the asphalt deposits. But when Castro had deposed the government that preceded him, his government cancelled these grants and issued new ones to the rival concern, Messrs. Warner & Quinlan, of Syracuse, N. Y., commonly known as the "Warner syndicate." The "Barber syndicate" thereupon armed its employes, announced its determination to resist the Venezuelan government, and appealed to the American diplomatic representatives for protection.

Such, at least, is the substance of the story as it is spelled out from the newspaper reports. The appeal to the American authorities soon produced diplomatic complications, the nature of which is not very clearly revealed, and, on the 30th of March, Secretary Hay cabled to the American minister to Venezuela, Francis B. Loomis, to return. Loomis sailed on the 5th of April. At one of the ports on the way he stated that the internal disturbances in Venezuela had ceased, that Castro is in control, and that the asphalt controversy had gone into the Venezuelan courts. Some weeks after his arrival home, and on the 17th of the present month, Mr. Loomis was transferred to Portugal, in the place of John N. Irwin, resigned, and Herbert W. Bowen was transferred from Persia to succeed Mr. Loomis in Venezuela. The real reason for the recall and subsequent transfer of Mr. Loomis appears now to be that the Venezuelan government raised objections to his continuing to represent the United States in that country. The objections were based upon his alleged partisanship for the "Barber syndicate" in the asphalt controversy.

Further important details of railroad consolidation in the United States (vol. iii., p. 634) were published on the 17th by the Chicago Tribune. The consolidation comprises, according to the Tribune's estimate, the following roads and mileage:

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe....	6,946
Southern Pacific.....	7,614
Union Pacific	4,439
Northern Pacific	4,524
Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul....	6,191
Chicago & Northwestern	5,077
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy.....	7,180
Missouri Pacific	5,324
Great Northern	5,127
Chicago & Alton	844
Wabash	2,326
Total mileage	55,592

It is asserted now, says the Tribune report, that all the roads west, northwest and southwest from Chicago to the Pacific coast will be controlled in future by the following interests:

- Lines west of Chicago to the Pacific coast by Harriman, Kuhn, Loeb & Co., and the Rockefeller.
- Lines northwest from Chicago by Hill and Morgan.
- Lines southwest from St. Louis by Gould and the Rockefeller.
- Lines southwest from Chicago by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, to which probably will be added before

long the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific.

J. Pierpont Morgan and E. H. Harriman, however, will be the real dictators and direct the policy to be pursued by these combinations.

Although the combinations described by the Chicago Tribune have probably not yet been completed, efforts now being made to that end will in all probability succeed.

Not so completely unrelated to this railroad combination as it might at first seem to be, is the state conference which met at Kansas City, Mo., on the 18th for the purpose of extending the public ownership party of St. Louis to the entire state of Missouri. This movement is one of the larger manifestations of the popular unrest caused by the progressive consolidation of monopolies. The St. Louis "Public Ownership" party originated in a democratic revolt against the democratic nomination for mayor last spring of a prominent supporter of President McKinley at the two preceding presidential elections. In opposition to this nomination, the "Public Ownership" party named Lee Meriwether for mayor and he polled nearly 30,000 votes (p. 17). At the state conference at Kansas City on the 18th there were in attendance on the first day 55 delegates. They were classified by the press as to political affiliations as follows:

Public ownership party, 23; populists, 18; progressive people's party, 2; socialist party, 1; silver republican party, 8; Bryan democratic party, 3.

J. H. Cook was chosen temporary chairman of the conference. It was held behind closed doors. The conference continued in session on the 19th, when it was decided to call a state convention upon the basis of the following principles:

Public ownership of all public utilities, as railroads, telegraphs, etc. While awaiting the legislation necessary to secure public ownership, rigid control of freight and passenger rates, and severe penalties for rebates and other discriminations by railroads. Taxation of railroads and other public utility corporations in the same proportion as the value of farm and other property. Direct legislation by the initiative and referendum. A graduated income tax. That whatever is used as money shall be full legal tender, issued by the general government in sufficient volume for business purposes, and that volume fixed in proportion to population. Just election laws throughout the state. Home rule for cities and

abolition of the present system of using the police as a standing army to carry primary elections in the interest of dishonest politicians representing still more dishonest special privilege corporations. Election of United States senators by popular vote.

Press dispatches having circulated a report that William J. Bryan is promoting this organization as a third party movement with a view to forcing his nomination for president in 1904, he replied on the 19th to an inquiry of the Atlanta Constitution that there is "no truth in the report."

NEWS NOTES.

—The fourth daughter of the tsar of Russia was born on the 18th. He has no sons.

—An invention of wireless telephones, by Samuel P. Levenberg, a boy of 18, is reported from New York.

—The census returns show the United Kingdom to have a population of 41,454,578, an increase in ten years of 3,721,656. There are 1,082,619 more females than males.

—The king of Italy is reported to have confided to a conservative deputy his confidence, based upon socialist speeches in parliament, that if the socialists were entrusted with the government they would do good work for the country.

—In London, on the 18th, Hazen S. Pingree died. He was mayor of Detroit four successive terms, 1889 to 1897, and governor of Michigan from 1897 to 1901. The public funeral at Detroit is set for July 4. Gov. Pingree's age was 60 years.

—Arrangements have been made for almost continuous communication by wireless telegraphy with trans-Atlantic steamers while at sea. An experiment with the Marconi system on the 15th, under the management of the New York Herald, proved the feasibility of the plan.

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1900, to and including May 31, 1901, as given by the May treasury sheet, were as follows (M standing for merchandise, G for gold and S for Silver):

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
M ...	\$1,255,013,596	\$754,803,644	\$630,149,951 exp
G ...	47,840,233	62,790,444	14,950,111 imp
S ...	59,716,276	34,609,369	25,106,906 exp
	\$1,492,570,203	\$852,263,457	\$640,306,746

—The Northern Ohio Democratic Club of Women, which meets every Friday evening at 844 Prospect street, Cleveland, has set an example to democratic clubs, whether of men or women, in entering systematically upon the study of natural taxation, and in welcoming all comers who are

interested in the subject to join them in the study.

—Prof. Truman Henry Safford, whose death, at the age of 65, is just announced, besides being distinguished as a mathematician and astronomer, was noted from boyhood for his wonderful powers of mental calculation. When a mere youth he could mentally extract the square and cube root of numbers of nine and ten places of figures, and could multiply four figures by four figures as rapidly as it could be done upon paper. In 1845, when he was nine years old, and nine years before he was graduated from Harvard college, he prepared an almanac, and at the age of 14 he calculated the elliptic elements of the first comet of 1849. By a method of his own he abridged by one-fourth the labor of calculating the rising and setting of the moon. After long and difficult problems had been read to him once he could give their results without effort.

MISCELLANY

ACHIEVEMENT.

Who says we fail? We prosper beyond dreams.
As architects of ruin we have no peers.
We thought to fire but farmsteads; we have lit
A flame less transient in the hearts of men.
We are ill at building? Yet have we at least
Destroyed to better purpose than we knew.
We have raised up heroes where we found but hinds,
We have ravaged well, our rapine is not vain.
Redder from our red hoofprints the wild rose
Of freedom shall afresh hereafter spring,
And in our own despite are we the sires
Of liberty, as night begets the day.
Sufficient claim to memory this I deem,
Title now, were other passport none.
—William Watson, in London Speaker.

A JOHNSON STORY.

This is the way that a simple query by Mayor Tom Johnson startled and dismayed a group of county auditors—if a prominent citizen can be believed:

Mayor Johnson—Who held the pass at Themopylae?

First Auditor (hastily)—I—I didn't!
Second Auditor (hesitatingly)—Wh-what road is that town on?

Third Auditor (belligerently)—You can search me!

Fourth Auditor (apologetically)—I—I borrowed mine!

Fifth Auditor (aggressively)—What are you lookin' at me for?

Sixth Auditor (bravely)—Well, supposin' it was me—what you goin' to do about it?—The Cleveland Plain-dealer.