

22d that as offensive operations had already begun, it would not be advisable to interfere. Accordingly, Gen. Chaffee was given a free hand, but cautioned to avoid causing a general war with the Mohammedan tribes which number in Mindanao over a million souls.

Passing over into China we shall find what may possibly be a repetition of the "boxer" outbreak of two years ago. This new rebellion was noticed in these columns last month (vol. iv., p. 823) as having arisen in southern China and advanced almost to Nanking. A two-days' battle had been fought about the middle of March, in which the government troops under Gen. Ma were worsted; and a few days later the rebels had captured a town in the province of which Canton is the capital. On the 8th of April advices from Hongkong were to the effect that Gen. Ma and Marshal Su, government commanders, had utterly routed the rebels and driven them to the mountains; but later advices coming from Canton were not so sanguine, and on the 16th it was reported from Canton that over 2,000 government soldiers had been ambushed in a mountain defile and killed or captured. The general situation was at the same time described as alarming. It was feared that both Gen. Ma and Marshal Su had been surrounded. As yet their safety is not assured. Canton itself was in such danger that reinforcements from Peking were urgently called for. The critical character of the situation, not only to the Chinese government but also to foreigners, was indicated on the 19th by dispatches from Peking, which told of the fears of the foreign legations. An official meeting of the foreign representatives in Peking was held on that day, at which it was decided, in view of the magnitude of the rebellion and distrust of the government, to station three cordons of guards around the legations.

While in the throes of this rebellion sweeping up from the south, China is being relieved of the threatened aggression of Russia from the north; for the Russo-Chinese treaty providing for the evacuation by Russia of Manchuria (vol. iv., p. 823, and vol. v., p. 10), now officially made public, contemplates a complete relinquishment. As the treaty is summarized from Washington—
Russia agrees to restore the civil administration of Manchuria, without re-

serve, to the Chinese empire; to evacuate Manchuria completely, so far as military or civil control is concerned, within one year from the date of the treaty; to remove her army, except a small force for guarding the Russian railway, within one year, withdrawing a part of the troops in four months, another part in eight months and the final quota in twelve months; and to surrender all claim to exclusive railway and mining privileges in Manchuria, pledging herself and China to the "open door" principle in that province.

There is, however, a reservation attached to the treaty, which declares that if the Chinese government should violate any of the terms stipulated as conditions of this evacuation—

the Russian government will not hold itself bound either by the terms of the Manchuria agreement or by the declarations previously made in connection with the matter.

Russia, herself, is disturbed by internal commotions. There are fears, apparently well grounded, that the democratic revolt which found expression 20 years ago in the assassination of the czar has revived. The cruelly oppressive and arbitrary actions of the government for the suppression of personal liberty, bore fruit on the 16th in the assassination, by a student named Balsahonstt, of M. Sipraguin, the Russian minister of the interior. At first this was believed to be only an ordinary crime, but the conduct of the Russian authorities indicates that they believe it to have been political, and this is the belief also of persons familiar with Russian affairs and who are in sympathy with the victims of Russian autocracy. Following the assassination of the minister of the interior comes reports of the attempt upon the life of the governor of Warsaw, and also stories of peasant revolts in the south. But the censorship of the press is so much more perfect in Russia than in other countries that no really trustworthy or adequate reports of conditions there are obtainable.

Supplementing the vague reports of democratic conspiracies in Russia are reports of open defiance to her authority in Finland, a country which she has undertaken to assimilate (vol. i., No. 48, pp. 4, 9; No. 50, p. 11; vol. ii., No. 54, p. 10; No. 57, p. 6; No. 58, p. 1; No. 59, p. 7; No. 61, p. 10; No. 69, p. 1; No. 75, p. 10; No. 77, p. 10; vol. iii., p. 778; vol. iv., pp. 617, 666). A dispatch from Helsingfors to the Lon-

don Times, received on the 21st, reports that on the 18th, in a levy of recruits from the Helsingfors district, out of 857 summoned only 56 appeared. The remainder absented themselves as a demonstration against the Russian army edict. On the same day, for some venial offense of the populace the Cossacks charged the public in the Senate square and in the adjoining streets. They used their knouts indiscriminately, and the chief sufferers were cripples, aged persons and children. Some men resisted the Cossacks and many persons on both sides were wounded.

The disturbance in Belgium, explained last week, is reported to have completely subsided. The debate in parliament on the proposed reform in suffrage qualifications, to abolish plural voting and establish manhood suffrage on the principle of "one man one vote," which began on the 16th, was continued on the 17th. There was very little excitement on the 16th, but on the two following days the excitement was intense. A move was made on the 17th to close the debate on that day, but this was so violently resisted by the Socialists that the conservatives receded, and it was unanimously agreed to fix the hour of closing debate at six o'clock on the 18th. When that hour arrived a vote was taken, and the proposal to revise the constitution by abolishing the plural vote, which gives the conservatives control in the government, although numerically they are a minority of the people, was defeated. As the vote was 84 against revision to 64 in its favor, it would appear that the Clerical or conservative party, which has 85 votes in the chamber, was practically a unit against the reform; and that all the other parties—having an aggregate of 67 votes in the chamber—were one with the Socialists in its support.

Immediately after the commencement of this vote a riot occurred at Louvain, 20 miles from Brussels. The strikers there appear to have thrown up barricades and to have invited an attack by the military, which was made with fatal results. But this occurrence and one somewhat similar at Bruges were the only indications of a serious disposition to convulse the country in civil war. The principal leader of the Socialists, M. Vanderfelde, a member of the chamber of deputies, urged pacific methods, saying that an unarmed people could not