

troops at the forts. After receiving the ultimatum, but before the hour specified, the Chinese commanders opened fire upon the allied fleets and the fleets replied. So say some reports. Others indicate that the fleets opened the bombardment. At the end of a battle lasting several hours, the foreigners captured the Chinese forts and pushed some of their lighter draft vessels up the Peiho river. The foreign warships participating in this battle were British, French, German, Russian and Japanese. Some reports credit the Americans also with being engaged, but the better inference is to the contrary. Twenty foreigners are reported to have been killed and 57 wounded in the engagement, while a British gunboat and a German warship were badly damaged, two British merchant vessels were sunk, and a Russian gunboat was blown up. On the other side two of the Chinese forts were destroyed, and the rest were captured by foreign landing parties in bayonet charges. The Chinese loss in killed is said to have been heavy. Later but still untrustworthy reports are to the effect that the loss of the foreigners was greater than as stated above.

Following the news of the battle at Taku come reports of European preparations for a Chinese war. It is said that 4,000 German troops have been ordered to China; that 10,000 French troops are on their way, and that 4,000 additional Russian troops have been dispatched from Port Arthur across the gulf to Taku. In announcing this to the European powers, Russia explains her purpose to be the protection of Russian and other European residents, and gives assurances that she has no special interest in the matter and will strictly adhere to all agreements. Great Britain is credited with 5,000 troops ordered out from India, and Austria-Hungary is preparing to forward 1,000; while the United States has ordered the forwarding of a regiment, the Ninth infantry, from the Philippines.

Meanwhile the press is full of sensational rumors of the condition of affairs at Peking, none of which are as yet confirmed. According to one of these rumors, 100,000 Chinese troops are guarding Peking, and guns are trained upon the American, British and Japanese legations. Another one announces the burning of all the legations and the killing of the German minister. A later one reports

the killing of the French minister also; and a later one still the destruction of all the foreigners in Peking along with their native employes. From other points are rumors of massacres by Chinese mobs and of the going over by Chinese soldiers in bodies to the "boxers." One of these unverified rumors, transmitted from London on the 18th, was to the effect that 7,000 Russians with 12 machine guns and 12 field guns were marching upon Peking. It was followed by one from Shanghai on the 19th which stated that this Russian relieving force, having arrived that morning outside of Peking, had begun an attack upon the city on two sides. But no further news has been received about this matter. A private letter from Miss Edna Terry, an American missionary in China, who was falsely reported killed a week or two ago, throws additional light upon the Chinese uprising. She describes a condition of famine in China, the severity of which may be inferred from her statement that "chaff, peanut husks, sweet potato vines and all such substances were about gone," and "some had been living on the bark of mulberry trees."

The American authorities at Washington, while they have ordered a regiment up from the Philippines to Taku, indicate their intention of refraining from any further military participation in the Chinese troubles than may be necessary to protect Americans there. The immediate pretext for forwarding these troops is the precarious situation of the American minister at Peking, from whom nothing has been heard for several days.

The opening of this new war, in which the United States is almost certain to become deeply involved as a "world power," coincides in point of time with the gathering of the republican national convention of 1900. Pursuant to the call of Chairman M. A. Hanna, issued on the 20th of last December (See No. 90, page 11), by direction of the national committee, the convention assembled June 19 at Philadelphia. About 10,000 people were in attendance at noon, when Mr. Hanna, as chairman of the committee, called the convention to order. After a prayer by the Rev. J. Gray Bolton, followed by a speech by Mr. Hanna, the latter announced that Senator Wolcott, of Colorado, would be temporary chairman. A vote was then

perfunctorily taken, and Senator Wolcott came to the chair. His speech was followed by the appointment of committees on rules, credentials, resolutions and permanent organization; and the first session of the convention closed with a prayer by the Rev. Dr. Edward M. Levy, who 44 years before, on the same day of the month and in the same city, had made the opening prayer of the first national convention of the republican party—the one that nominated Fremont for president. The second session convened on the 20th. The committee on credentials then reported. Its report was followed by that of the committee on permanent organization, which nominated Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts, for permanent chairman, and Charles W. Johnson, of Minnesota, for permanent secretary. After these permanent officers had been elected and seated, the committee on rules reported, and at that point Senator Quay offered an amendment which, if adopted, would reduce the representation of the south in future republican conventions about 50 per cent., while raising that of the northern states 25 to 50 per cent. A substitute was offered by Lynch, of Mississippi, and the matter went over to the 21st. The next business of the convention was the adoption of the platform. When that had been done, an adjournment was taken to the 21st.

The platform, drawn by Postmaster General Smith before the convention and submitted to Mr. McKinley, who approved it, may be fairly summarized in these terms:

After referring to the unsurpassed prosperity of the present time as due to the return of the republican party to power, and congratulating the people upon the results of the war with Spain, the platform indorses the McKinley administration, and, renewing allegiance to the principles of the gold standard, approves the financial legislation of the Fifty-sixth congress. On the subject of trusts it condemns commercial conspiracies while recognizing the propriety of the cooperation of capital to meet new business conditions. The policy of protection associated with reciprocity is reaffirmed; and, for the benefit of labor, the restriction of the immigration of cheap foreign labor, the extension of educational opportunities to working children, the raising of the age limit for child labor, and some system of labor insurance are advocated. A timidly expressed plank in support of subsidies for American shipping is

followed by recommendations for liberal pensions and the maintenance of the efficiency of the civil service, together with an objection to the attempts in the south to nullify the fifteenth amendment and a declaration approving the rural free delivery postal service and the irrigation of arid lands. Early statehood is promised New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma; and the construction, ownership, control and protection of an isthmian canal by the government are urged. A new cabinet office is proposed, to have charge of commercial affairs, including the consular system. Hawaiian annexation, the Samoan arrangement, and the part taken by the government in the Hague peace conference are approved; while the president is commended for offering friendly services in settlement of the British war in South Africa, and hopes of an honorable peace are expressed. The platform closes with a presentation of the question of expansion. In this respect it rests the obligations of the government upon the necessity of destroying Spain's sovereignty throughout the West Indies and in the Philippine islands. And promising to secure to the Filipinos by law "the largest measure of self government consistent with their welfare and our duties," the platform guarantees the performance to the letter of the pledge of independence and self government made by the United States to Cuba.

It had long been a foregone conclusion that President McKinley would be the unanimous nominee of the republican convention for president, and the only nominating contest was over the vice presidency. For this place Gov. Roosevelt was supported by Senator Thomas C. Platt, the manager of republican politics in New York, and by Senator Quay, the manager in Pennsylvania. He was opposed by Senator Hanna, Mr. McKinley's manager, and was not himself a candidate. Though he refused to declare that he would decline if nominated, he insisted that he could serve both his party and the country better by becoming a candidate for re-election as governor of New York. Besides Roosevelt, the leading possibilities in advance of the convention were Congressman Dolliver, Secretary Long, Lieut. Gov. Woodruff, of New York, and Secretary Bliss. But before the making of nominations, which were delayed until the 21st, Mr. Hanna had acquiesced in Roosevelt's nomination; and the close of the convention saw McKinley and Roosevelt nominated by acclamation.

Democratic politics were comparatively quiescent upon the eve of the republican convention and during its sessions. But as the Ohio convention on the 13th, and the conventions of Missouri, Kentucky, Vermont, Georgia and California on the 15th instructed for Bryan, the two-thirds vote necessary to nominate him for president is now assured.

Down in Cuba the first popular elections since the Spanish regime took place on the 16th under American direction. These elections had been postponed from May, when they were originally to have been held. Their object was the choice of mayor, municipal councils, treasurers, municipal judges and correctional judges, for the 200 municipalities, or thereabouts, into which Cuba is districted. Some of these municipalities are cities and some are townships, but the scheme of government is the same for all. The suffrage was limited, by American military order, to males 21 years of age—Spanish subjects excluded—who can read and write, or who own \$250 worth of property, or who served in the Cuban army. In preparation for the election political parties formed. They differed somewhat in character and purpose in different localities, but upon the whole they might be classified as the republican party and the national party. The republican party stands for a federation of the provinces, and is in some economic matters disposed to be radical. It offers a complete programme of government. While supporting independence for the island, it does not push that question to the front. The national party stands for making of Cuba a compact nation, and emphasizes the demand for early independence. Gen. Gomez is identified with this party. When the elections came off perfect order prevailed throughout the island. In Havana the nationalists elected their entire ticket. Gen. Alejandro Rodriguez, their candidate for mayor received 13,073 votes, against 6,034 for his adversary. Cubans point to these elections as a demonstration of their ability to regulate their own affairs in orderly fashion, and of the sentiment of a majority among them in favor of absolute independence.

From the Philippines there is but little news. American scouting is evidently going on, and Americans are killing and being killed. The latest reports give the casualties for the

week ending the 17th as 60 Filipinos killed and 200 captured, and three Americans killed. Great expectations are based upon the promulgation to be made on the 21st, of President McKinley's proclamation of amnesty, wherein he offers a free pardon to all Filipinos (ladrones excepted) who will take the oath of allegiance to the United States and acknowledge the sovereignty of its government. The proclamation has not yet been made public as we write.

American casualties in the Philippines since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in detail at Washington to May 30, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900, (see page 91)	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900,	15
Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900,	69
Total deaths since July 1, 1898.....	1,931
Wounded	2,168
Total casualties since July, 1898..	4,099
Total casualties reported last week	4,079
Total deaths reported last week..	1,927

Though news from the American war in the Philippines is meager, that is not altogether so of the war in South Africa. On the 20th a force of Boers was reported as gathering in front of Gen. Rundle, in the region of Ficksburg, which is in the Orange Free State near the Basutoland border and almost due east from Brandfort. Gen. Rundle commands the right wing of Lord Roberts's army of invasion. This move on the part of the Boers was preceded, according to reports, by an attack upon Rundle's outposts. But there are no further details.

A battle was supposed, at the time of our last report, to have been in progress on the 11th, about 15 miles east of Pretoria, on the Middleburg road. The next news from that point came from Lord Roberts, under date of the 13th. He said that during the preceding night the Boers, who were under command of Botha, had evacuated their position and retired farther east. The fighting had lasted all through the 12th. It was a battle altogether of 30 hours, at the end of which time the Boers effected a retreat with all their equipment. In this battle the Boers successfully met Lord Roberts's flank attacks; but to do so