

a meeting of that committee, also on the 15th, a motion to adopt the "board plan" was defeated by a vote of 3 to 20. The "federal plan" in use for 12 years in Cleveland, had already been defeated by a vote of 11 to 12. The committee then proceeded to amend the bill along the lines of a "single head" plan—mayors, presidents of council, auditors, treasurers, and solicitors to be heads of departments respectively and to be elective.

In connection with the anthracite coal strike (p. 361) no change in the situation, of any note, is indicated by the press reports.

The possible clash between Colombia and Great Britain (p. 311), growing out of the rebellion in the former country, seems to have passed over; but now the United States has become involved in the South American disturbance. On the 11th word was received at Washington that the Colombian rebels were advancing upon the city of Panama, at the Pacific terminus of the Panama railway. The United States battleship Wisconsin was at once ordered to Panama, and the Cincinnati to Colon (Aspinwall) at the Atlantic terminus of the railway. The latter arrived on the 15th. On the day preceding, the United States auxiliary cruiser Panther had been hurried from League Island to Colon. On the 16th Commander McLean, of the Cincinnati, complained to the navy department that Colombian government troops had placed obstructions on the railway when his train was passing over it. His message was as follows:

Yesterday I went to Panama. Train stopped twice by obstructions—plate iron, etc.—placed on track. After train passed saw government soldiers replace obstructions. Accompanied by consul and Commander Potter, of Ranger, called on governor. Friendly conversation. Returning to Colon this morning stopped by obstructions. Soldiers were compelled to remove them. Soldiers then stood on track. By my directions train moved on and soldiers jumped away. Will guard trains. No revolutionists in sight, but rumored coming toward railroad.

Instructions were forthwith sent from Washington to the American minister to Colombia, at Bogota, requesting him to call for an explanation from the Colombian government.

On the 17th a detachment of Unit-

ed States marines from the Cincinnati was landed at Colon, and distributed in groups to act as guards upon the trains running between Colon and Panama. Every train is reported as now in charge of marines. It was at the same time given out that on the 18th American sailors would be landed from the Ranger, at Panama, to protect the Pacific terminal. The Colombian authorities have protested to the American consul at Colon against the landing of American marines in a body upon Colombian soil.

At the time of our last report of the progress of the Colombian revolution a battle had been fought at Agua Dulce (p. 311), about 75 miles from Panama, and both sides claimed a victory. It became evident late in August that the rebels had won the battle, and that their leader, Gen. Herrera, was moving upon Panama. By the 9th of September no doubt remained that Agua Dulce had fallen into the hands of the rebels, that other advantages had been gained by them, and that Panama was in danger. Rebel gunboats could be seen beyond the Panama harbor on the 10th, and the Colombian government had no warships with which to defend, the rebels having captured their only gunboat on the Panama side of the Isthmus. This exposed condition of the railroad terminus was the cause for sending American ships to guard Panama and the railway from injury. The American commanders are instructed to enforce treaty stipulations with Colombia strictly by preventing any interference with traffic across the Isthmus, and also prevent a bombardment of Panama from the sea, on the ground that this in itself would constitute a menace to traffic.

Our last report from Venezuela (p. 311) indicated that President Castro's position was serious, and it now appears to have grown more so. He is reported to be retreating from Ocumare, in Bolivar, before the insurgent troops, after a defeat of government troops in a severe battle at Tinaquillo which began on the 11th and lasted four days.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—McKinley memorial services were held in many churches on the 15th.

—Queen Wilhelmina opened the Dutch parliament in person on the 16th.

—Gen. Nelson A. Miles passed through Chicago on the 12th on his way to the Philippines.

—The American prison congress met this week at Philadelphia. Louisville is the next place of meeting.

—The Sovereign Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of the United States has been in session this week at Des Moines.

—Horace Gray, who recently resigned as Justice of the United States Supreme Court (p. 296), died at Nahant, near Boston, on the 15th.

—Alexander R. Shepherd, known in the early 70's as the "Boss Tweed" of Washington, the District of Columbia, of which he was governor, died in Mexico on the 12th.

—Russia has ordered a fleet of three gunboats into Behring sea, under orders to capture all American and Japanese vessels engaged in seal fishing within the Russian maritime jurisdiction.

—An official investigation discloses the fact that the landslide on Mount Kasbek, Russia (p. 346), in August last, destroyed 20 villages, killed 700 persons, and damaged property to the amount of \$30,000,000.

—The hearing of the claim of the United States against Mexico growing out of the Pius fund of California began at The Hague on the 15th before the international court of arbitration. This is the first contest that court has been called upon to adjudicate.

—Terrible forest fires are reported from the far Northwest. Scores of villages in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia have been destroyed by the flames and thousands of people made homeless. Some 50 lives are believed to have been lost. Wyoming and Colorado, also, are suffering from forest fires.

—Lieut. R. E. Peary, the Arctic explorer, who sailed for the north polar regions July 2, 1898, is on his way home. He was heard from on the 15th at Chateau bay, on the coast of Labrador. All on board his vessel, the Windward, were reported as well, but no intimation was given of the success of the expedition.

—At a meeting of the Corporation of Dublin, Ireland, on the 12th, a resolution was adopted protesting against the "outrage and insult offered the citizens of Dublin in proclaiming the city, in which, in proportion to the size of its population, there was less crime than in any other city in the world." "Proclaiming" means suspending the ordinary course and safeguards of criminal procedure.

—It was decided by the Teachers' Federation of Chicago at their meeting on the 13th that, in view of the fact that under the present system of taxation it would be impossible to obtain money enough to pay increased salaries, they work to bring about a re-