

State, the beginning of which was described at page 185 last week, has yet been completed. Some fighting has occurred, and British casualties within one period of three days are said to have amounted to 100; but there is no other news of moment. The belief prevails in London, however, that Lord Roberts is really now about to end the war by a master stroke in which he will surround the Boer force in the Free State.

The chief interest of the week in England with reference to the South African war was excited by charges of Mr. Burdett-Coutts, tory member of parliament for Westminster, that the British hospital arrangements in South Africa have been a disgrace to the service. The matter was the subject of acrimonious debate in the house of commons on the 29th. It is probable that these harrowing disclosures of Burdett-Coutts will result in the appointment of a commission of inquiry, and that a scandal not unlike that which attended the Alger investigation at the close of the Spanish-American war will attach to the British war office. The parliamentary secretary, Mr. Wyndham, in replying to the hospital charges upon the floor, admitted that the sick and wounded had been neglected to a lamentable extent, but insisted that this was due to no stinting of supplies, but to the insuperable difficulties of distributing supplies. The extent of the neglect may be inferred from the statements of war correspondents and others that British soldiers are infinitely better nursed in the Boer hospitals than in their own.

The British war office on the 3d issued the following report of British casualties since the outbreak of hostilities:

Killed in action	21,657
Died of wounds	680
Missing and prisoners	2,689
Died of disease	4,337
Invalided home	19,277
Total	48,640

The Boer envoys, Messrs. Fischer, Wolmarans and Wessels, who have been in this country for several weeks advising the American people of the merits of the Boer cause, sailed for France on the 29th on board the steamship L'Aquitaine. They were accompanied by Montagu White, formerly the representative of the South African republic in London. Mr.

White is to return the latter part of this month.

There is no news this week from the American war in the Philippines except a report from Gen. MacArthur on the 2d that Gen. Aquino had surrendered with a few followers at Tarlac on the 29th, and that fighting still continues in northern Luzon. The amnesty proclamation has had little effect apparently, as the insurgents still continue active.

American casualties in the Philippines since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in detail at Washington to July 3, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900, (see page 91)	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900,	22
Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900	100
Total deaths since July 1, 1898.....	1,969
Wounded	2,179
Total casualties since July, 1898.....	4,148
Total casualties reported last week	4,099
Total deaths reported last week.....	1,931

Russia has advanced much farther, not to say much more peaceably, in the work of Russianizing Finland than either the United States or Great Britain in their kindred work in the Philippines and South Africa respectively. The story of this subjugation may be followed in detail by reference to The Public, No. 48 page 9, No. 57 page 6, No. 61 page 10, No. 75 page 10, and No. 77 page 10. The latest step in the process was the issue on the 27th by the czar of a manifesto directing that after September next all reports of the Finland senate must be made in the Russian language; that after New Year's day, 1903, only the Russian language shall be spoken in the senate, and that two years later it must be used in all government offices and departments. The official language now, which this manifesto is to supplant with the Russian, is the Finnish, which, as we have heretofore explained, has a high order of literature of its own. Besides thus forcing an alien language upon the Finns, Russia is suppressing freedom of speech and of the press. A Swedish paper published in Helsingfors, Finland, has been peremptorily suppressed, and four others, one published in Finnish, have been warned, while the dismissal of the editor of

another has been ordered. The effect of this drastic assertion of Russian sovereignty is indicated by data just published which show that in 1899 the emigration from Finland was nearly four times what it was in 1898.

In American politics the leading event of the week is the assembling of the democratic national convention at Kansas City, Mo. Up to the hour of this writing but little business had been done. The convention was called to order at 12 o'clock on the 4th by Gov. Charles M. Thomas, of Colorado, as temporary chairman, who made the opening address. After Gov. Thomas had finished speaking the declaration of independence was read amid great enthusiasm. A bust of William J. Bryan, the work of Richard George, the son of the late Henry George, was then presented to the convention by Tom L. Johnson, of Ohio, and once more the great convention hall shook with cheers. After the roll of the delegations had been called the convention adjourned until eight o'clock. At the evening session ex-Gov. Altgeld of Illinois made a forceful address and urged the convention to take no backward step on the money issue. James D. Richardson, of Tennessee, was then elected permanent chairman. His scathing arraignment of the republican administration was well received, but at the mention of Bryan's name a scene of wild enthusiasm, such as has never been equalled before at a political meeting, unless perhaps at the great convention in 1896, when Bryan himself captured the nomination by a wonderful speech. The convention then adjourned, but the committee on resolutions after an all night session decided, on the morning of the 5th, upon a specific declaration for 16 to 1, by a vote of 26 to 24, thus ending by this action the movement against the specific reaffirmation of the 1896 plank.

The principal state convention was that of the republican party of Michigan, which was in session and at a deadlock as we went to press last week. On the 28th, upon the nineteenth ballot, Aaron T. Bliss, of Saginaw, was nominated for governor. The Minnesota republican convention on the same day nominated Samuel R. Vansant for governor. Between the socialist labor party and the social democratic party, which have not yet come together on the presidential ticket, a complete fusion on state nominees