

hours, but lasted until four o'clock in the afternoon, when Gen. Clements retreated to Reitfontein. He arrived there early in the morning of the following day, having fought a rear-guard action all the way. Lord Kitchener reports that four companies of the Northumberland fusiliers surrendered a commanding position in the battle, after holding out while their ammunition lasted. Five British officers and nine men, at least, were killed, besides 18 officers and 555 men who were missing. After the battle the Boers released their prisoners—five officers and 316 men. They then separated in two bodies, one of which moved west and the other north.

What is equivalent to another Boer victory is the escape, now conceded, of Gen. DeWet from Gen. Knox. He had crossed the Caledon last week, as told on page 569, but Gen. Knox was then pursuing him northward, and a running fight was in progress. Later reports indicate that DeWet, while pursued by Knox, confronted the British line in the region of Ladybrand and Thabanchu, which extends from Blomfontein to the Basutoland border, and was thus once more surrounded. He made several attempts to get through the British line, and on the 14th had succeeded and was again free to continue his northward march. Gen. Knox was obliged to abandon pursuit, in order to defend Cape Colony from the invasion noted below.

Other fights besides those of Delary and DeWet are reported by Lord Kitchener. He tells of engagements at Lichtenburg, at Bethlehem, at Vrede, and at Vryheid, in all of which the Boers attacked and were repulsed. Also of one near Zastron, in the southeasterly part of the Orange Free State, in which the Boers surrounded a party of Brabant's horse and captured 107, after killing four and wounding 16. To offset this disaster, Gen. Methuen is credited with the capture of a Boer "lager" consisting of 15 wagons, 15,000 rounds of ammunition, 4,600 cattle and 2,000 sheep. From other sources there is a report that Boers have crossed the Orange river and raided Cape Colony at two separate points 100 miles apart. One raid was upon Philipstown, between Colesburg and Kimberley, and the other upon Kaapdal, near Aliwani North. The latter raid is reported to

have driven back a British force sent to meet it; but there are no particulars. The former is fully verified. A Boer force estimated at 3,000 has crossed the river and penetrated as far as Philipstrom, 40 miles south. The raiders are encouraged by the Dutch population, and the situation is so serious that Gen. Knox has been recalled from his pursuit of DeWet to give his attention to the defense of Cape Colony.

This news from South Africa has had a dispiriting effect upon the British public, which had so recently been assured by the ministry that the war was virtually at an end. Even Lord Salisbury in his speech on the 18th at the annual conference of the National Union of conservative associations was decidedly pessimistic. And although Lord Kitchener now has 210,000 troops in the field, more are being sent. The colonial office announces its decision also to enlist 5,000 men in South Africa for a constabulary force. Lord Kitchener has requested and the New Zealand government has consented that the New Zealand troops remain until the war is over. Kitchener is reported also to have demanded that the imperial government send him immediately every available mounted man; and the queen has appealed to the militia, yeomanry and colonial troops to continue in the field. The proposed thanksgiving services in honor of Lord Roberts' return have been abandoned. In parliament the news from South Africa has furnished ammunition to the opposition. Lloyd-George, one of the liberal members, created a sensation on the 15th by declaring in a speech upon the floor that—

DeWet is making England the laughing stock of the world. We have 210,000 men in the field, yet we are unable to protect ourselves from disaster at the hands of small commandos drawn from a pastoral population.

Parliament took a recess on the 15th until the middle of February. The session closed with the reading of the queen's speech as follows:

My lords and gentlemen: I thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the expenses incurred by the operations of my armies in South Africa and China.

In the American congress two important decisions have been made, one by the lower house and the other

by the senate. On the 15th the lower house passed the bill reducing war taxes. The only test vote was on the question of making a revenue reduction of \$40,000,000 or of \$70,000,000, the republicans supporting the smaller and the democrats the larger reduction. When the democratic proposition came to a vote it was defeated by 155 to 131. It was upon the Hay-Pauncefote treaty (see page 568) that the senate took decisive action. This was with reference to "the Davis amendment," which was reported last spring by the committee on foreign relations. It is as follows:

It is agreed, however, that none of the immediately foregoing conditions and stipulations in sections numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this article shall apply to measures which the United States may find it necessary to take for securing by its own forces the defense of the United States and the maintenance of public order.

The senate had divided over the treaty into three factions. The first, led by Senator Morgan, favored the treaty as originally drawn. The second, led by Lodge, favored the Davis amendment; believing that the United States ought to reserve the right to protect the canal in time of war. The third favored the retention by the United States of the right to erect fortifications on the canal. On the 13th the vote on the Davis amendment was taken. It was supported by the first and the third factions and received 65 votes. There were only 17 votes against it. Subsequently the senate fixed the 20th for a final vote upon all pending amendments and the treaty itself.

To understand the conflict over the Hay-Pauncefote treaty it is necessary to recall the origin and one of the provisions of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. Prior to 1850 Great Britain established a protectorate over the Mosquito Indians along the north coast of Nicaragua, and in doing so took possession of San Juan del Norte, now Greytown, the natural eastern terminus of any Nicaraguan canal that might be built. Against this act the United States protested, and the Clayton-Bulwer treaty of April 19, 1850, resulted. One of the provisions of that treaty forbids either country to obtain control over or special commercial advantages in any ship canal between the two oceans. This provision is held by Great Britain to be still in force. By some American statesmen it is regarded as obsolete.

Indisputably it has never been abrogated by treaty. In these circumstances a supplementary treaty was negotiated last winter by Secretary Hay for the United States and Lord Pauncefote for Great Britain, which is the treaty now under consideration by the senate. It gives to the United States the right to construct and manage the long contemplated canal; and for the purpose of making the canal neutral pursuant to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, it adopts seven rules (see No. 97, page 9). These rules require the canal to be kept open to all nations in time of war as in time of peace, upon equal terms, and forbid any act of war within the canal or the three-mile limit at either end. The object of "the Davis amendment" is so to modify the rules as to permit the United States to defend itself and maintain public order by such measures as it may find necessary—in other words, to commit acts of war if necessary for general order or its own defense.

The Chinese negotiations were still at a stand until the 19th, when all the foreign ministers at Peking agreed upon the terms of their joint note containing the demands upon China. This agreement is said to include the modifications proposed by Great Britain, but no disclosure of the joint note has yet been made. The Chinese envoys announce that they have now received formal credentials from the emperor.

Reports from Manila indicate the continuance of military activity in the Philippines. Several small engagements, with American casualties in both killed and wounded, are noted; but nothing important or definite is reported. A proclamation is announced to be issued on the 20th by Gen. MacArthur which will proclaim that in the future "the laws of war will be strictly enforced." The specific character of this proclamation is not yet intelligibly reported.

American casualties since July 1, 1898, inclusive of the current official reports given out in detail at Washington to December 19, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16; 1900 (see page 91) 1,847
 Killed reported from May 16, 1900, to the date of the presidential election, November 6, 1900..... 100

Deaths from wounds, disease and accident, same period..... 468
 Total deaths to presidential election 2,415
 Killed reported since presidential election 17
 Deaths from wounds, disease and accident, same period 76
 Total deaths 2,508
 Wounded since July 1, 1898..... 2,373
 Total casualties since July, '98.... 4,881
 Total casualties to last week..... 4,881
 Total deaths to last week..... 2,508

The convention of the American Federation of Labor, the opening of which at Louisville on the 6th was reported last week, adjourned on the 15th, after selecting Scranton, Pa., as the place for the next annual convention. The socialist resolution regarding trusts which had been adopted at the previous convention was modified this year so as to read:

Resolved, That this twentieth convention of the American Federation of Labor reaffirm its position upon the trust question by urging the unorganized working people to organize in their respective trades as the best means of resisting the encroachments of trusts and monopolies. And we also renew the recommendation that trade workingmen generally study the development of trusts and monopolies.

In the same general connection the convention adopted, by a vote of 4,169 to 685, the following declaration as a substitute for three socialist resolutions which had been moved, and also as outlining the policy of the federation:

We cheerfully accept and desire all the assistance and usefulness which may or can be given the trade-union movement by all reform forces. The aspirations, hopes and aims of the trades union members are very similar to the expressed wishes of the greater body of socialists; namely, that the burdens of toil may be made lighter, and that each worker shall enjoy the complete benefit of that which he produces. That men and women shall receive a great amount of liberty; that the years to come may be made brighter than the past or present, are the ideals of us all. But we take the position, nevertheless, that because of personal, local, national or other reasons the workers of our country reach different conclusions as to the method of reaching the desired end, even though there may be little difference among us as to the desirability of reaching that end. We assert as forcibly as we are capable of asserting that the trade union movement is the true and legiti-

mate channel through which the toilers should seek not only present amelioration but future emancipation. We hold that the trade unions throughout our country and Canada do not now, nor do we believe they will in the future, declare against the discussion of any question in their meetings, either of an economic or of a political nature, but they are, and we think justly, committed against the indorsement or introduction of race prejudices, religious differences or partisan politics. We declare it to be the inherent duty of our several unions to publish in their journals, to discuss in their meetings, and the members thereof to study in their homes, all questions of a public nature which have reference to their industrial or political liberty; but we as firmly declare that it is not within the constitutional or any other power of the American Federation of Labor to legislate, resolve or specify to which political party members of our unions shall belong or for which party they shall vote.

Another important resolve of the convention favored voluntary but opposed compulsory arbitration in labor controversies. Samuel Gompers, of New York, was reelected president.

At last the complete vote at the presidential election is officially reported. Montana, the last state to furnish official figures, did so on the 19th. Following are the returns collected from official data by the Chicago Chronicle of the 20th:

	McKinley.	Bryan.
Alabama	53,669	96,368
Arkansas	44,700	81,142
California	164,755	124,965
Colorado	93,141	122,944
Connecticut	102,545	74,010
Delaware	22,457	18,856
Florida	7,499	28,007
Georgia	35,035	81,700
Idaho	28,306	30,522
Illinois	597,985	503,061
Indiana	336,003	309,584
Iowa	307,818	209,466
Kansas	187,881	162,077
Kentucky	226,801	234,899
Louisiana	14,253	53,671
Maine	65,435	36,822
Maryland	136,185	122,238
Massachusetts	238,866	156,997
Michigan	316,269	211,685
Minnesota	190,461	112,901
Mississippi	5,703	51,706
Missouri	314,093	351,913
Montana	25,375	27,146
Nebraska	121,835	114,013
Nevada	3,849	6,347
New Hampshire....	54,803	35,489
New Jersey.....	221,701	164,808
New York.....	821,992	678,386
North Carolina....	132,997	157,736
North Dakota.....	35,891	20,519
Ohio	543,918	474,882