

ural sites and resources, and so foster trusts and promote socialism, or, on the other, undermine those monopolies and thereby advance and strengthen the cause of individual liberty?

NEWS

Serious fighting continues in South Africa. On the 3d a British force came in conflict with a Boer force near Amersfoort, in the southeastern Transvaal, and drove it from its position. The news dispatch mentions no casualties. But on the 4th the same Boer force renewed the engagement with a detachment of the same British force at the same place; and in this affair the British lost 19 killed, including the major in command, and 13 wounded. Also on the 4th, at Bronkhorstspruit, a railroad town 40 miles east of Pretoria, a party of Scots Grays was ambushed by Boers and in the fight lost 6 killed and 10 wounded. Two or three minor skirmishes are reported, in one of which the British killed 5 Boers and captured 29.

The British government is buying land in the Orange Free State with a view to laying it off in small allotments and populating it with friendly settlers. In the Thabanchu district this policy has been carried to the extent of the purchase of 28,000 acres, where 80 farms had, by the reports of the 5th, been allotted.

Computations of casualties in the war, based upon British official reports and emanating from London, put the total Boer loss, since the beginning of the war, in killed, wounded and prisoners, at 18,320. The number of deaths is not particularized. British losses for the same period are put at 24,293, of which 9,113 were sustained in actual fighting, the total death losses being 19,430. The total number of British invalided home, of whom the majority recovered and returned to their commands, is 64,330.

American sympathy with the Boers found emphatic expression on the 5th at a mass meeting at Cleveland. The attendance was large, being reported by the press dispatches as 4,000. Ex-Congressman John J. Lentz delivered the principal speech. His sympathetic sentiments were indorsed in brief speeches by Mayor Johnson and Wil-

liam J. Bryan, the latter happening to be in Cleveland as Mayor Johnson's guest. Carefully prepared resolutions addressed to President Roosevelt were adopted. Meanwhile active efforts are being made for the collection of funds for the relief of non-combatants in the British reconcentration camps pursuant to the proclamation of Gov. Yates, of Illinois; and Rev. Dr. Hiram W. Thomas and his wife, Vandalia Varnum Thomas, have been selected by the committee appointed by Gov. Yates, composed of Judge E. F. Dunne, Mayor Harrison and Peter Van Vliessingen, of Chicago, to go to these South African camps for the purpose of distributing the money. In accepting this appointment Dr. and Mrs. Thomas write:

In the name of God and humanity we are ready to go to that far-off land. Gladly will we be the bearers of the generous offerings and deep sympathies of the people of our country of the free to the noncombatants—the aged, the mothers and children, the sick and dying—whose husbands and fathers are fighting so grandly for home and country, for the rights of man.

While Americans are thus manifesting sympathy for the Boers in their resistance to British invasion, the similar invasion by the United States of the Philippines continues to meet with similar though less effective resistance. As the reports, like those from South Africa, pass through the military censorship of the invading power, they cannot be regarded as either complete or wholly reliable. But some idea of the situation may be spelled out from them. Gen. Bell was reported on the 5th from Manila as conducting a vigorous campaign in Batangas province, Luzon; from which it is fair to infer that the resistance to American dominion in that province is also vigorous. Conditions in the island of Samar are reported from Manila as still unsatisfactory, "owing to the difficulty of finding the insurgents;" which implies either that there are none or that, like the Boers, they do not fight their better-equipped enemy in the open, but attack him unawares. The latter implication is the more probable. In the island of Leyte, at Ormoc, the Americans have captured four cannon, powder factories, fully-equipped workshops, and a quantity of war material, all "belonging to the insurgents." Notwithstanding this evidence of determined resistance, the American civil authorities at Manila

declare that the island of Leyte "is now perfectly peaceful."

A remarkable document relating to the American occupation of the Philippines came to light on the 4th through the war department at Washington. It is signed by nine American soldiers, who have been among the Filipinos for many months, and is addressed to their comrades in the American army. In this document the signers say to their comrades that—

the time has arrived for us to break the silence and let you know the real truth, so that you will see the folly of continuation of fighting these people who are defending their country against the cruel American invasion in the same manner in which our forefathers did against England in those glorious days of our grand and noble liberator, Gen. George Washington. . . . That the war may soon end we ask the men of the American army stationed in these islands to present themselves to the Philippine authorities as we did. . . . Near every town there are always stationed forces of Filipino troops, to whom, should you so desire, you can present yourselves with or without your rifles, and to avoid danger it is best to hide it in a secure place, and after you have presented yourself, inform the Filipino officer or chief of the guerrillas and they will recover it and pay you some money in return.

On the basis of this document, one of the signers, J. Thomas Kreider, corporal Thirty-eighth U. S. V., was recently tried by military commission in Manila, and upon conviction of treason sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for life; but Gen. Chaffee disapproved the sentence on the ground that the evidence of an overt act of treason was not conclusive. He thought the preponderance of proof favored the contention of the accused soldier that he was held by the Filipinos as a prisoner and took no part in operations against the United States, gave no aid and comfort to the enemy, made reasonable effort to escape, and was compelled by his captors to sign the proclamation by threats of violence in case he refused.

At the opening of congress on the 6th, after the holiday recess, the Philippine question was made the subject of a bill, introduced in the house by Representative Henry A. Cooper, of Wisconsin, chairman of the committee on insular affairs, providing for a permanent form of civil government, beginning January 1, 1904, for

the people of the archipelago, under the suzerainty of the United States. In its present shape the bill provides for a governor of the islands, to be appointed by the president of the United States; for an upper legislative branch consisting of five native Filipinos, also to be appointed by the president; and for a lower legislative branch of 30 members, to be elected by Philippine citizens, the qualifications for citizenship being 21 years of age, ability to read and write Spanish or English, possession of taxable property, and one year's residence in the islands. Two commissioners to the United States are to be elected by the two branches of the legislature in joint session.

The chief object, however, of congressional interest since the holiday recess has been the Isthmian canal question, last referred to in these columns at page 583. A debate over the matter took place on the 7th in the lower house, when Representative William P. Hepburn, of Iowa, chairman of the interstate and foreign commerce committee, introduced the committee bill for a government canal over the Nicaragua route. This bill had passed the lower house last year, but was held back by the Senate pending the disposition of the treaty with Great Britain. The House was then almost unanimously in favor of the bill; but a division of opinion appears now to have arisen. The Nicaragua measure is opposed by friends of the Panama route, and a third faction opposes a government canal altogether, advocating construction by private enterprise. The debate is still in progress as this paragraph closes.

Colombia, the country through which the Panama canal route runs, is still in the throes of civil war (p. 617), with unverified reports favorable to the insurgent liberals coming in; while the only reports for the week regarding the neighboring country of Venezuela, which is in the same dilemma (p. 617), are barely better than newspaper gossip. Nothing new has transpired regarding the demands of Germany upon Venezuela. The Chili-Argentina embroilment (p. 616), also, is still in suspense.

At the Cuban elections of December 31, the general result of which was received on New Year's day and reported in these columns last week, an unexpectedly light vote was cast. One cause for this doubtless was the with-

drawal of Gen. Maso, one of the two presidential candidates in the contest. He had asked for a postponement of the elections, complaining that Gov. Gen. Wood had placed the election machinery in the hands of his adversary, Estrada Palma. The request being denied by the United States, Maso withdrew and advised his friends to take no part in the elections. He intends to enter a protest against their validity. The officers voted for were governors and legislators for the six provinces, members of the lower house of the national congress, and senatorial and presidential electors. The senatorial electors will meet February 18 at their respective provincial capitals, and, together with the respective provincial legislatures, elect national senators. On February 24 the presidential electors will assemble at their respective provincial capitals and vote for president and vice president for a four-years' term. Of the presidential electors, 55 are reported to be for Palma and 8 for Maso. The new government will probably be set up about the 1st of March.

Political interest in the United States has for several days centered about the organization of the legislature of Ohio, in which the Republicans have a large majority but are split into three factions—the Foraker faction, the Daugherty faction and the Hanna faction. Foraker's term as United States senator is about to expire, and his successor will be elected this year. Hanna's senatorial term has two years yet to run. Each of these senators distrusts the other. Hanna distrusts Foraker especially because he suspects him of the purpose of securing his own reelection with Hanna's aid this winter, and then of throwing Hanna overboard in 1903. Accordingly each has exerted every possible effort to secure the advantage of control of the present legislative organization. Harry M. Daugherty, who was defeated last fall for the gubernatorial nomination by Gov. Nash, was not generally regarded as a serious factor until the critical moment arrived. The Foraker slate, as exhibited in December, contained the names of Frank B. Archer for president of the Senate and F. A. Scobey for clerk, and those of Aaron E. Price for speaker of the House and Harvey V. Speelman for clerk. Against these, Mr. Hanna's candidates, announced on the 26th, were W. B. Uhl for clerk of the Senate, no candidate for president being proposed, and W. S. Mc-

Kinnon for speaker of the House, with Burgess L. McElroy for clerk. The brunt of the fight came over the House organization, because the speaker of the House appoints committees and is virtually absolute in the direction of business, whereas the Senate appoints its own committees and directs its own business without dictation from the presiding officer. On the 4th this part of the contest was decided in favor of Hanna by a vote of 38 to 30 in the House caucus of the Republicans. The Senate organization, however, was secured by Foraker, he not only electing his candidate for president, but also defeating Mr. Hanna's candidate for clerk by a vote in Senate caucus of 14 to 7. Hanna's victory in the House is attributed to an alliance with the Daugherty faction, which is now believed to hold the balance of power. Both the speaker and the clerk of the House, though on Mr. Hanna's slate, are primarily not Hanna men but Daugherty men.

Upon the formal organization of the legislature on the 6th, the action of the Republican caucus was confirmed, after which both houses listened to the message of Gov. Nash. The message dealt largely with questions of taxation, the subject to which Mayor Johnson has given vitality in the state. The general plan he outlined was a modification of Johnson's idea of home rule in taxation. He proposed that taxes for state purposes be raised from corporate franchises, the liquor traffic, etc., and that taxation for county, municipal or other purposes be left to the counties. In urging this change the governor said:

The tangible property will be relieved of a portion of the burden which it now bears. There will then be no occasion for the state board of equalization. No injustice will arise because the property in one county is valued more highly for the purpose of taxation than the property in another. The injustice arising from such erroneous valuation comes only when state taxes are to be paid. Then taxes upon property will be levied only by the county, municipal and township officers.

NEWS NOTES.

—Nicholas Murray Butler was elected on the 6th to succeed Mayor Low, of New York, as president of Columbia university.

—The German Mormon conference assembled at Berlin on the 5th, with an attendance of more than 100 Mormon missionaries.