

stood in the way of our development and expansion. That instrument seems almost to be inspired to carry forward the holy mission of liberty. It seems not to have been made alone for those who framed it and their successors, but for all ages and all mankind. That instrument stands to-day almost as it left the hands of its framers. Few amendments have been added, and those have only been to enlarge the priceless blessings of liberty and free government to the people, and no amendment can ever be made to the constitution of this country that will curtail the supreme and sovereign power of the people. We have lived under it for 125 years, in storm and in sunshine, in war within and without, amidst passions and tumult, and, after a century and a quarter, that great instrument stands unsullied by a single lapse of principle. To us, my fellow citizens, young and old, the preservation of that constitution is committed. It is a sacred instrument, and it is a sacred trust given to us to see to it that it is preserved in all its virtue and vigor, to be passed along to the generations yet to come. Glorious constitution, glorious union, glorious flag. Seventy-five millions of people stand together as they never before stood to defend them all.

The president's formal entry into San Francisco was made on the 14th. He was received with unbounded enthusiasm, and was to have had a magnificent ceremonial reception on the 15th; but this was abandoned at his request, owing to Mrs. McKinley's alarming condition. For the same reason the presidential tour through the far northwest will not be made.

Crossing the Pacific to "our new possessions," to which President McKinley's speeches have referred, we may learn that the country is not yet wholly pacified. Filipino bands are still holding out. There are reports, however, of surrenders under promises of immunity; and Gen. Funston is said to have been in communication with a Filipino leader in northern Luzon who has promised to surrender his command within a few days. There is no statement of the inducements offered, nor of the reasons for delay. Steps are being taken, under orders from the war department, to reduce the army of occupation to 40,000. The rest of the Philippine news consists of reports of trials and convictions of military officers for frauds, insignificant attacks by Filipino bands, the breaking up of a gang of American brigands, the ambitions of the federalist party, and the civil or-

ganization of another province or two. None of it is especially important.

Over in China the foreign ministers have received the reply of the Chinese government to the indemnity demand of 450,000,000 taels (about \$326,250,000), reported last week. This reply, which is long, is summarized by the cable into a plea of national poverty. It concedes the obligation and declares the intention of China to pay all the legitimate expenses incurred by the foreigners during the recent Chinese troubles, but explains that the public resources of the empire are diminishing, and assures the powers that the best it can do is to pay \$15,000,000 taels (about \$10,500,000) annually, which it offers to do, without interest, for a period of 30 years. Li Hung Chang is desirous of having the different indemnity claims of the powers submitted for adjudication to The Hague tribunal, but he has been warned that if he makes this demand the foreign occupation will be extended pending the adjudication and that thereby the final indemnity will be augmented by millions of dollars. No action has yet been taken by the powers with reference to China's reply to their indemnity demand.

In Japan the ministerial crisis noted last week continues. It has not been found possible as yet to form a new cabinet.

The Australian federal parliament was ceremoniously opened on the 9th at Melbourne. This is the first parliament of the new commonwealth. (See vol. iii, pp. 10, 93, 105, 601, 616.) It was chosen on the 31st of March (see vol. iii, p. 825), and at its opening on the 9th of the present month the heir of King Edward VII., the duke of Cornwall and York, presided over the ceremonies. Upon their conclusion, the governor general of the commonwealth, the earl of Hoptoun, directed the senate and the representatives to return to their respective houses and elect officers, and on the 10th he outlined the measures that the ministry intend to lay before the parliament. As cabled, they include bills for the constitution of a high court with extensive jurisdiction, for the creation of an interstate commerce commission, for restricting Asiatic immigration and the importa-

tion of labor from the South sea islands, for the arbitration of labor disputes, and for adult suffrage. Nothing is said of the question of federal taxation, which constituted the issue of the federal elections.

While this new autonomous dependency of Great Britain was celebrating the opening of its first parliament, the house of commons of the British parliament was voting upon the appropriation for the new king's civil expenditures, including his private purse. The amount asked for by the tory ministry and seconded by the liberal leader was £470,000 (\$2,350,000) annually. Mr. Labouchere moved to reduce the allowance to £415,000 (\$2,075,000), the amount allowed to Queen Victoria; but his motion was defeated—62 to 250. The vote granting the full amount proposed was 307 to 58, the opposition coming mostly from Irish members. Another question in the commons, which still more deeply concerned the Irish members was decided against them by a smaller majority. It arose on the second reading of a bill to amend legal procedure in Ireland. A system of jury packing in the interest of the government prevails there, which this bill was intended to remedy. The ministry opposed the bill, insisting that local conditions in Ireland necessitate the discriminations in selecting juries of which the Irish members complain; and the bill was defeated by the vote of 226 to 102.

Attention has been directed to Russian finances and the relations of France and Russia, by the authorization, officially announced from St. Petersburg on the 11th, of a Russian loan "to restore the treasury advances to railway companies in 1900, and to meet the expenditures of the current year." The nominal amount of the loan is 424,000,000 francs (\$84,800,000). It bears four per cent. interest; is not redeemable until January 14, 1960; is guaranteed by the Bank of France, the Credit Lyonnaise, the Rothschilds and other French banking houses, and was advanced to Russia by the French government.

From Spain reports of disorder noted last week (p. 74) continue, but still with meager details. An enormous riot is said to have occurred at Barcelona on the 9th. The mob tried to stop work in the factories, and col-

lisions with troops resulted. Several soldiers were among the wounded. Wholesale arrests of anarchists, socialists and Catalans have been made. Later dispatches report the restoration of order. Labor difficulties and political purposes appear to have combined to produce the outbreaks. Their political character is especially indicated by the order of Gen. Weyler, minister of war, to the captain general of Barcelona, to "reply by arms to every cry of 'Death to Spain,'" and the merging of political and labor interests is sufficiently shown by the announcement of the ministry that it will present to the cortes bills in the interest of the working classes, but will make no compromise with the Catalans of separatist tendencies. The latter part of this announcement suggests the nature of the political phases of the revolt in the Catalonian territory, which includes Barcelona. This part of Spain is not really Spanish, and secession has always been a popular sentiment with the Catalan inhabitants.

Down in South Africa the guerrilla resistance to British occupation still holds out, but there is little news from that part of the world. In fact, there is none at all, aside from a somewhat dubious dispatch to the effect that Lord Kitchener has decided to burn the veldt in order to force the Boers to surrender.

Returning now to our own side of the globe, Cuba furnishes a morsel of news apropos of the return to Havana, reported last week, of the Cuban commissioners to Washington. The constitutional convention reassembled on the 13th, and in secret session considered the report of this commission and referred it to the standing committee on relations with the United States. The committee is instructed to report to an adjourned session of the convention on the 20th.

In the United States threatening labor troubles are taking shape. One difficulty is at Albany, N. Y., where a street car strike has attracted national attention by the resort to troops and the apparent danger of a bloody collision. The strike is said to be against nonunion employes. As the dispatches report the case, all differences were settled between the men and the traction company except one—the

company refused to discharge nine nonunion men. It is to be observed, however, that the bitterness between the parties seems to be too extreme for such an explanation. Both in Albany and in the neighboring city of Troy, say the reports, the strikers destroyed the company's property; and although the company encounters no difficulty whatever in finding new men to take the place of the old ones, the manifestations of violence make it impossible to induce the new men to incur the bodily risks of going to work. The sheriff of Albany county admitted his inability to suppress the disorder, and the sheriff of Rensselaer (the Troy county) refused to order his deputies to ride on the cars as the company requested. Consequently the governor called out the militia. One collision between the strikers and the troops has occurred, and there are fears of bloody street fighting. The cars have not been run for several days.

What may be a much more important labor event is foreshadowed by the action of the machinists' union with reference to the coming change from a ten-hour to a nine-hour day. About a year ago an agreement with the employers' organization provided for a nine-hour day, to go into effect May 20, 1901, but no provision was made regarding wages. There is now exhibited on the part of the employers a disposition to pay only nine-tenths the present wages for nine-tenths of the present labor time; whereas, the workmen have expected to receive the same wages for the nine-hour day as for the ten. A general strike will doubtless be ordered if this expectation is not satisfied. At a meeting of the Machinery and Allied Metal Trades' National and International unions, held at Washington on the 14th, it was decided that in all shops which refuse on May 20 and thereafter to pay the same wages for the nine-hour day as they are now paying for the ten-hour day the workmen shall strike.

NEWS NOTES.

—The German reichstag adjourned on the 11th until November 26.

—The total population of London, including the outer suburbs, as returned by the recent census, is 6, 578, 784.

—The territorial legislature of Hawaii, which adjourned on the 30th, first passed a resolution memorializ-

ing President McKinley to remove Gov. Dole.

—The Cleveland branch of the social democratic party has decided to recommend the elimination from the national platform of all demands except the fundamental one of socialism—that for a radical remodeling of the capitalistic order of society.

—The Cleveland ordinance requiring the mayor to surrender the lake front to the railroads, the execution of which, by Mayor Farley, was prevented by Mayor Johnson's qualifying half an hour before the expiration of an injunction, was repealed on the 13th by the city council by a vote of 13 to 7.

—The republican governor of Wisconsin has vetoed the primary election bill. He was elected on a pledge to reform the primary election system, but the republican legislature, acting under corporate influences as he charges, gave him a bill to sign which was "so framed as to bring reproach upon the principle," and he refused to sign it. The senate majority resented his charges.

—The treasury report of receipts and expenditures of the federal government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1900, shows the following:

Receipts:	
Tariff	\$199,355,933 68
Internal Revenue..	252,413,906 06
Miscellaneous	31,115,121 39
	\$482,884,961 15
Expenses:	
Civil and Misc.....	\$104,533,160 56
War	124,753,366 38
Navy	50,273,196 71
Indians	9,242,805 00
Pensions	116,741,635 57
Interest	29,246,551 70
	\$434,790,705 92
Surplus	\$48,094,255 23

MISCELLANY

THE FLAG-MASKED EMPIRE.

For The Public.

Where the flag-masked Empire sits
On the throne of Liberty,
And the vampire Warfare flits
'Round the homesteads of the free,
Taking toll of mothers' sons
For the Empire's ruthless guns—
There the slain Republic lies,
And the hope of free men dies.

Where the golden monarchs ride
By the puppet Chieftain's side,
While the bartered soldiers tread
Thro' the rice fields, reeking red
With our own and alien dead,
Where the might of modern guns
Finds a market—for our sons!—
There the course of Empire runs.

Where the great Earth-owners dwell,
There the Kings the People sell
To the War-god's living hell.
Ye that strange—ye that die
For the graves the War-gods buy—
Ye that work—and working weep!
Ye that make—and may not keep!
Seek ye bloody market space;
That ye sell is still the Race.

VIRGINIA M. BUTTERFIELD.