

death, the Schley-Sampson board of inquiry (pp. 280, 265, 250) has suspended its sessions. But before doing so the competency of Rear Admiral Howison was passed upon by his associates on the board. This action was taken at the first session of the board, on the 12th. Admiral Schley objected to Howison on the ground that he had formed and expressed an opinion on the merits of the inquiry and as to the personal and professional characteristics of Schley, which indicated a bias and prejudice sufficient to unfit him to serve. Testimony was taken, and the board sustained Admiral Schley's challenge. The vacancy was filled the next day by the appointment of Rear Admiral Francis M. Ramsay. The board now consists of Dewey, Benham and Ramsay.

The steel strike has come to an end, notwithstanding the indications in Mr. Shaffer's interview of last week (p. 362) that an early settlement was improbable. The settlement was made on the 14th at a conference in New York between the leaders of the strikers and officers of the trust. The full terms of the settlement are as yet withheld. It is understood, however, that the strikers were to return to work on the 16th, and that the trust had made no concessions. This outcome has de-unionized several establishments, and the striking workmen in those establishments are furious at the settlement, which they call a surrender. The tin-plate workmen, who are in this category, have withdrawn from the Amalgamated association and resolved to continue the strike.

The principal political event of the week is the state convention of the new political party of Missouri, ordered last summer by a conference of various elements (p. 172) to be called in the fall, and held at Kansas City on the 17th and 18th. Some 200 delegates were in attendance. A joint committee on resolutions from the different reform organizations represented, formulated the following platform on the 17th:

(1) We demand the initiative and referendum and the imperative mandate. (2) We favor the public ownership of all public utilities as the people shall from time to time elect. (3) The land, including all natural resources, the heritages of the people, should not be monopolized for speculative purposes and alien ownership should be prohibited. All lands now held by rail-

roads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs or held by aliens should be reclaimed and held for actual settlers only. (4) We favor scientific money, based upon the entire wealth of the people of the nation, and not redeemable in any specific commodity, but to be full legal tender for all debts, private or public, to be issued by the government only, without the intervention of banks, in sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of commerce. (5) We believe in just and natural taxation. (6) We demand the election of the president, vice president, federal judges and senators by the people. (7) We favor the creation of a cabinet office of the department of labor and equitable arbitration. (8) We favor the establishment of postal savings banks. (9) We favor the adoption of such constitutional amendments as may be necessary to make the above laws.

This platform came before the convention on the 18th, and was adopted. The convention adopted "Allied Party" as the name of the new organization, and made arrangements for calling a national convention.

The only other political event was the fusion effected between the Democratic and the Populist parties of Nebraska by their respective state conventions, in session at Lincoln on the 17th. Mr. Bryan spoke before both conventions. His reference before the Democratic convention to the president's death is noteworthy. Said he:

When the days of mourning are over, I am satisfied that the Democrats will believe with me, that as the blow of the anarchist cannot destroy our government, nothing can ever make imperialism right. I am glad the reform parties are not taking advantage of this calamity, and I am sorry that the Republicans are taking advantage of it.

Under the fusion agreement the Democrats have the head of the ticket (Conrad Hollenbeck for supreme court judge), and the Populists have the two regents of the university.

South American news corroborates the reports of last week that La Hacha, the Colombian town on the north coast of that country near the Venezuelan border had been successfully bombarded by Columbian liberals (insurgents), and not by the government of Venezuela. This news comes by way of Caracas and is to the effect that La Hacha has been evacuated by the Columbian government and is now occupied by a force composed of Columbian liberals and

Venezuelans. They use the Columbian flag. It would seem, therefore, that Venezuelans who have participated in this fight have done so as individuals. It would appear, also, that the Columbian liberals are making headway in the civil war.

China once more claims attention. Since our last report from this part of the world (p. 312), the required apology has been made to Germany (p. 345), and the terms of settlement have been agreed upon though not yet fully made public. Consequently the Chinese are permitted to resume their occupation of the empire. They did this in form on the 17th, when Chinese troops entered Peking and the Americans and the Japanese delivered the "forbidden city" in Peking over to the Chinese authorities.

But for the newspaper excitement in the United States over the death and burial of President McKinley, this week's news from South Africa would have challenged universal attention. The Boers have celebrated Lord Kitchener's surrender proclamation, which matured on the 15th, by winning on the 17th one of the greatest victories of their guerrilla warfare. The event took place near Scheeper's Nek. According to Lord Kitchener's official report, they ambushed three companies of mounted British infantry and after severe fighting overpowered them. The British loss was 16 killed, 30 wounded and 155 captured. The Boers are said by the British commandant, who escaped, to have numbered 1,000 and to have been under the command of Gen. Botha. Another affair is reported by Gen. French, who says that the Boer Commandant Smuts "rushed" a British squadron at Eland's River Poort, killing 23 and wounding 31. There appear also to be grave fears of another Boer invasion of Natal. The authorities at Pietermaritzburg, in view of the imminence of this reinvasion, ordered a muster on the 19th of the Natal corps.

NEWS NOTES.

—The duke and duchess of Cornwall made their formal entry into the Dominion of Canada at Quebec on the 16th.

—The celebration of the one thousandth anniversary of the death of King Alfred the Great began in Winchester on the 19th.

—Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, died at Faribault on the 16th. He was