

McKinley has communicated through a representative, with Gen. Gomez, and arranged for contributing \$3,000,000 toward the payment of insurgent troops, upon their surrendering their arms to the Cuban assembly or its representatives. In testimony of his satisfaction, Gen. Gomez wrote from the headquarters of the Cuban army at Remedios, to President McKinley, on the 1st, as follows:

It has been a great pleasure to me to confer with your commissioner, Mr. Porter, introduced by my friend Quesada, and I am now aware of and pleased with your wishes. In a short time I shall go to Havana and confer with Gen. Brooke, so that everything will go well. Following your advice, I am willing to cooperate in the work of reconstructing Cuba.

England's Australian colonies are at last getting together. The colonial premiers who have been in conference upon the subject at Melbourne, Victoria, announce a unanimous agreement which promises to remove the objections to federation that have heretofore kept the colonies apart. Pursuant to this agreement the federal capital will be established in New South Wales, but at least 100 miles from Sydney, the colonial capital. The parliament is to consist of a senate and a house of representatives, and an absolute majority of the members of both houses is to decide all differences between the two. The Australian federation bill vests the legislative authority in the queen, who will be represented by the governor-general, and in two houses of parliament, the members of each being elected on the basis of manhood suffrage and each elector having only one vote. Each colony or state will return six members to the senate, for six years. The house of representatives will consist of sixty-four members elected for three years—twenty-four by New South Wales, twenty-three by Victoria, seven by South Australia, five by West Australia and five by Tasmania. The executive government is to consist of seven ministers.

With the English home government, legislative business is now resumed. Parliament met on the 7th. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman had already been chosen liberal leader in place of Sir Wm. Vernon Harcourt, whose letter refusing to continue in that position was published some weeks ago. The Queen's speech, which foreshadows the policy of the party in power, was not especially

significant. The new liberal leader, in replying to the address in response to the queen's speech, criticised the government's policy in China and in foreign affairs generally. In answering liberal questions in the house of lords, the premier—Lord Salisbury—announced that England did not contemplate the acquisition of territory in China nor the dismemberment of that empire; and he put forward as the most easily understood title of England to dominion in the Soudan, the title of conquest. At a meeting of the anti-Parnellite members of the Commons on the opening day, John Dillon resigned as chairman of the Irish parliamentary party.

Returning to American affairs we have to note the sentence imposed by the president upon Gen. Eagan, convicted by court-martial, of applying foul epithets to his superior officer, Gen. Miles, when testifying before the president's committee on the mismanagement of the war. The sentence is that Gen. Eagan be suspended from rank and duty for six years. This enables him to resume his rank a few days before the time for his retirement under the age limit. He will therefore be ultimately retired with the same rank and pay as if there had been no conviction. Meantime, during suspension, his pay, but not his allowances, will continue.

NEWS NOTES.

—Count von Caprivi, former chancellor of the German empire, died near Frankfort on the 6th.

—James A. Sexton, commander in chief of the G. A. R., and one of President McKinley's war investigating committee, died on the 5th at Washington.

—The Washington state department has decided to decline to recognize the Austro-Hungarian claim for indemnity on account of the death of the Huns killed by Sheriff Martin's posse at Hazelton, Pa., during the coal strike in 1897.

—The Rev. James Monroe Taylor, D. D., president of Vassar college, has been unanimously chosen as president of Brown university, to succeed President Andrews, who resigned to become superintendent of the Chicago public schools.

—The grand jury of Cook county, Ill., in which is Chicago, reports that although the responsible officers of the street car companies deny that money is advanced by the company for jury bribing yet the grand jury is "loath to believe that anyone, court bailiff or other person, has the interest of street railroad companies so much at heart, or that there is a concert of mania among

a number of individuals to contribute money for the purpose of debauching juries and robbing plaintiffs of their just rights of action." Indictments have been found against court bailiffs for bribing jurors in the interest of the companies.

IN CONGRESS.

This report is an abstract of the Congressional Record, and closes with the last issue of that publication at hand upon going to press.

Week ending February 4, 1899.

Senate.

On January 30 the senate considered the Bacon joint resolution disclaiming any intention on the part of the United States to exercise sovereignty over the Philippines and asserting its determination to leave the islands to the government of their people when a stable and independent government shall have been erected therein. It considered the same matter on the 31st, and also on the 1st, when Senator Lindsay submitted a resolution on the subject. Senator Spooner spoke on the 2d in opposition to the Vest resolution, and in the course of his speech was interrupted by Senator Tillman, who obtained consent to place in the Record an official report from Manila signed by Maj. J. T. Bell, of the engineer corps, dated August 29, in which Maj. Bell said:

There is not a particle of doubt but what Aguinaldo and his leaders will resist any attempt of any government to reorganize a colonial government here. They are especially bitter toward the Spaniards, but equally determined not to submit any longer to being a colony of any other government. What they would like best of all would be a Filipino republic with an American protectorate, for none realize their inability more clearly than they to maintain a republic without protection of some stronger power.

On the 3d the report of the conference committee on the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill was agreed to, and Senators Money and Daniel spoke at length on the Philippine question. On the 4th Senators Chilton and Wolcott spoke upon the same subject.

House.

Discussion of the army reorganization bill was continued on the 30th and 31st. On the latter day Representative Cummings offered the following amendment:

That no part of the army constituting the organization under this act shall be used for, or shall do the duty of, a posse comitatus, or be employed in putting down strikes or riots, or doing any police duty whatever, in any state in this union, except upon application of the legislature, or the executive of such state (when the legislature cannot be convened), in accordance with section 4, article 4, of the constitution of the United States.

The amendment was voted down, 121 to 93. The bill was then passed—yeas 168, nays 125, not voting 58. As passed, the bill fixes 50,000 as the minimum limit of the regular army, and empow-