

battle of July 3, Schley explains, that he heard any criticism, either from Sampson, the department, or anyone else, of his so-called "reprehensible conduct" prior to May 29.

Other aftermath of the Spanish war relates to charges made by Gen. Miles for the investigation of which, as reported last week, the president has convened a court of inquiry. The court met on the 17th at Washington, and on the 20th Gen. Miles appeared before it as the first witness. Since then several witnesses have testified as to the quality of the beef furnished the troops in the field.

In Europe the center of interest for the week has been in France. At our last report, a week ago, that country was in a state of great excitement over the bill which had just passed the chamber of deputies, to regulate the revision of the Dreyfus case; and in the midst of this turmoil, on the 16th, the president of France—Felix Faure—suddenly died. The cause of his death was apoplexy. It was feared at the time that this event might under the circumstances precipitate a revolution. But the fear was not realized. In two days a new president had been quietly elected. The election took place at Versailles. Emile Loubet, president of the senate, presided over the two houses. On the first ballot Loubet was elected. He received 483 votes out of 817 cast. The total number of members is 883.

The new president of France has been exceptionally noncommittal on the subject of the Dreyfus case. But as his election was due to the almost unanimous support of the senate, in which there is believed to be an overwhelming Dreyfus majority, and also because his election was bitterly opposed by the anti-Dreyfusites, it is assumed that he is rather favorable than unfavorable to Dreyfus. After the election, attempts were made in Paris to get up a demonstration against Loubet, but they failed. As we write, however, there is great nervousness lest a revolutionary outbreak may occur on the occasion of the late president's funeral. In his message to the chambers, delivered on the 21st, President Loubet spoke in general terms giving no indication of specific policies.

The Spanish cortes met on the 20th. This occasion has been looked forward to with peculiar interest on

account of the pending questions relating to the war with the United States, including that of the ratification of the Paris treaty. The first meeting was very disorderly. A general uproar being provoked by random discussions of different phases of the war; and Premier Sagasta was compelled to withdraw his proposition to refer the bill for ceding the Philippines to the United States, on account of conservative opposition. Bitter accusations were made regarding the "shameful capitulation of Santiago." One deputy complained that although five months had elapsed no Spanish general had yet been shot. Similar scenes were enacted at the session on the 21st; and they were repeated on the 22d. The treaty has not yet been acted upon.

Greek politics are not so boisterous as those of France and Spain. The election, the approach of which we noted in No. 41, page 11, passed off quietly on the 20th. The ministry in power at the time of the dissolution of the chamber on the 9th of last January, which was led by Alexander Zaimis, appealed to the constituencies. The opposition was led by the former premier, Theodore Delyannis. Delyannis was badly beaten. He carried only 22 seats out of 207. Elections in Greece are by manhood suffrage, 21 years being the minimum age limit.

Friendly relations between Great Britain and the United States were supposed to have been disturbed by the sudden and long adjournment on the 20th of the Canadian high joint commission. The adjournment was taken until August 2. This commission was created pursuant to an agreement made May 30, 1897, by the British ambassador, the Canadian minister of marine, and two American special commissioners, its function being to frame a treaty between Great Britain and the United States for the complete adjustment of all controversies affecting the United States and Canada. Among the questions contemplated are those of North Pacific sealing, of Atlantic fisheries, of the Alaska and other indefinite boundary lines, of the transit of merchandise across boundaries, of alien labor laws, of mining rights, of customs duties, of war vessels on the great lakes, of the transportation of prisoners by either country through the other, of the use of currency, of trade reciprocity, and of wreckage and salvage rights. The joint commission met in Quebec on

the 23d of August last, from which place, after a few meetings, it adjourned to Washington, where the decision to take the long adjournment until next August has just been made.

Several reasons for the long adjournment were surmised, chief among which was the supposed inability of the commission to come to an agreement as to the Alaska boundary. This dispute arises out of the treaty between England and Russia, made in 1825, when Russia owned Alaska. Having acquired Russian rights under that treaty, the United States claims 30 miles in width of territory along the Pacific coast from the point where the boundary line leaves the 141st meridian to the point where it touches the 130th, being the territory which has been generally indicated on the maps as part of Alaska. Canada's claim, on the other hand, based upon her interpretation of the same treaty, would carry the line within much less than 30 miles of the coast, and give to her valuable harbors from which she is now excluded. The crucial question is whether in describing the line as 30 miles back from the coast, the treaty alluded to the main coast or to the outlying islands. If to the islands the Canadian claim holds good; if to the main coast it fails.

There was in fact, however, no real reason for supposing that the commission had encountered serious obstacles to an agreement, and this was made plain on the day of the adjournment by the publication of the following statement, signed by Senator Fairbanks, chairman of the American commission, for the United States, and by Sir Wilfrid Laurin, acting chairman of the British commission, in behalf of Canada:

The commission adjourned to meet at Quebec August 2 unless the chairmen of the respective commissions shall agree upon another date.

The commission has made very substantial progress in the settlement and adjustment of many of the questions upon which it has been earnestly engaged. But it has been unable to agree upon the settlement of the Alaskan boundary. This problem has been a complicated and difficult one, but the commissioners, acting in the utmost friendliness and cordiality, have been unable to agree upon a satisfactory adjustment.

The difficulties, apart from the immediate delimitation of this boundary by the commission itself, arise from the conditions under which it might be referred to arbitration. The British com-