

NEWS

The queen of Spain signed the Paris treaty on the 17th, and empowered the French ambassador at Washington to represent Spain in Washington at the exchange of ratifications, the only formality now remaining to complete the peace. Her signature was unauthorized by the cortes, and the act is criticised abroad as a monarchical blow at parliamentary government.

It is now definitely reported by responsible correspondents at Manila, that Philippine news is entirely untrustworthy. These correspondents have at last complained of the censorship to which they are subjected, sending their complaints by messenger to Hong-Kong, whence they have been cabled. James Creelman is one of the complaining correspondents. He says that the censor forbids the use of the cable for the transmission of the actual facts of the situation. Another, a staff correspondent of the Chicago Record, blames the administration at Manila for the outbreak of hostilities, and complains that true statements of the circumstances are forbidden by the censor. It may reasonably be suspected, therefore, that Philippine dispatches of the week are more in conformity with the censor's instructions than with the facts.

Our last week's report, based upon censored dispatches, left the Americans in complete possession of the Pasig river to its source, a large lake called Laguna de Bay, some eight miles east of Manila. The Filipino army was thus cut in two, communication between the north and south wings, except across or around the lake to the east, being interrupted. That was the situation on the 15th, when a night attack was made by the Filipinos along the whole northern line, but without much effect. The next morning the Americans advanced from Pasig, at the source of the river, upon Cainta, a fortified village about five miles to the east, near the northern shore of the lake. After four hours' fighting, part of it in the village streets, they captured this village, but subsequently withdrew "to replenish their ammunition." On the 17th an American gunboat, towing two lighters carrying troops, was dispatched from Pasig for a cruise against lake shore villages; and the

same day witnessed another attack by Filipinos upon the American line. They attacked the Americans again on the 18th, this time at Taguig, which lies upon the southern shore of the lake, a little to the south of Pasig. The fighting continued until darkness put an end to it. On the morning of the 19th, the Americans made a determined movement out of Taguig and down the southern lake shore, sweeping a path two miles wide and driving the Filipinos before them as far as San Pedro Tunasan, a distance of 15 miles. Ten villages were burned, the Filipinos applying the torch when forced to retreat, and the Americans resorting to it to dislodge their enemy. At the end of the day, the Americans returned to Taguig, exhausted by their hard work under a hot sun. On this day, also, the gunboat and lighters which had gone upon a cruise upon the lake, as reported above, completed the cruise, having shelled and destroyed several Filipino villages along the shore, and proceeded as far as Santa Cruz, a town of 1,200 inhabitants near the eastern extremity of the lake. The Filipinos were found to be strongly intrenched there, and guarded by two gunboats and several launches. Consequently no attempt was made by the Americans to land; but the town was shelled, with the effect of dislodging some citizens but no troops. Reinforcements were solicited for the purpose of returning and renewing the attack. No conflicts are yet reported as having occurred on the 20th, 21st or 22d, though there is desultory firing every day.

At Iloilo peace has not yet been established. Both the city of Iloilo and the village of Jaro have been again attacked by natives. Gen. Hughes is to relieve Gen. Miller at that point, the latter having reached the age of retirement from active service.

The Island of Negros, too, is reported to be in a disturbed state. As we related in Nos. 48 and 49, at pages 9 and 7 respectively, the inhabitants of the island of Negros had put themselves voluntarily under American jurisdiction, and affairs were proceeding smoothly. But dispatches of the 21st announce that threatening conditions required reinforcements, and that a battalion had been forwarded. It appears that the Negros commissioners who bore to Gen. Otis at Manila the information that Negros had acknowledged the United

States (See No. 48, page 9) and were returned to their native island in state after being handsomely entertained at Manila, took advantage of the opportunity offered by that mission, to enter into friendly communication with Aguinaldo. This fact is known. Whether it has any connection with the necessity of reinforcements in Negros is not reported. In the islands also of Leyte and Samar, lying near Luzon, hostilities were reported on the 22d as imminent.

Dispatches of the 21st from Manila, indicate the intention of the American advisory commission there to issue a pronunciamiento to the inhabitants of the Philippine islands explaining "the spirit in which the United States intends to fulfill the trust imposed," and calling "upon the people of the islands to lay down their arms and cooperate in the interests of good government."

Further reinforcements have started for the Philippines. The 9th infantry left its barracks at Sackett's Harbor, N. Y., on the 17th, 1,215 strong. The regiment goes by way of San Francisco. On the 22d the Sherman arrived at Manila with the Third infantry and four companies of the Seventeenth. Admiral Dewey has been reinforced by the arrival of the battleship Oregon.

American complications in Cuba are not yet out of the tangle in which we left them a week ago, when the impeachment of Gen. Gomez by the Cuban assembly had produced a conflict of Cuban authority and raised a question as to the distribution of the \$3,000,000 which the United States has forwarded for payment to the Cuban army on condition of its disbandment. Public sentiment at Havana appeared to be with Gomez, until Gen. Brooke officially announced his intention to ignore the assembly and recognize Gomez as the sole representative of the Cuban army, whereupon it seemed to veer around in favor of the assembly. Besides this embarrassment, Gen. Brooke is confronted with the discovery that the assembly has possession of the Cuban army rolls. That makes it impossible, for the present, without the assembly's consent, to pay off and disband the army.

Out of the clash between the Cuban assembly and Gomez, two political parties are expected to be born. The partisans of Gomez have formed what

they call the National Cuban party, with the intention of making Gomez the first president of the Cuban republic; while an opposing party is organizing to support the assembly against what it calls the Gomez dictatorship.

Besides the generation of political parties in Cuba, this clash between the assembly and the late commander-in-chief has precipitated rioting in Havana. A desperate fight occurred late at night on the 18th, between the Havana police and partisans of Gomez. Nearly 1,000 shots were exchanged. There were numerous minor disturbances of similar character on the 19th, but after that quiet was restored. The casualties chronicled for the two days were 7 killed, two of them being policemen and one a woman, and 50 wounded.

The discontent in Porto Rico, reported last week, gives no indication of having been allayed. According to mail advices received on the 19th, it is expected that the feelings of the Porto Ricans may culminate in open rebellion. Arms and ammunition are reported to have been smuggled into the island and secreted in the mountains for rebellious use; and 100 rounds of ammunition have been issued to the American troops.

There has been friction for more than two months between the natives of Porto Rico and the American military authorities. It seems to have had its origin in a growing conviction on the part of the Porto Ricans that their island is to be held as an American colony. About Christmas time a delegation representing several Porto Rican cities arrived in this country to protest against the continuance of the military administration. They claimed that they had enjoyed a higher degree of freedom under the old Spanish regime, and expressed an earnest wish for a reasonable civil government, asking to be accepted by the United States as brothers and not as subjects—to have the island made a territory the same as the territories that have come to be states. For Gen. Henry, the American military governor, they expressed respect and esteem, but insisted that his government was that of a man and not of the people. About a month after arriving, this delegation had an interview with President McKinley. Their formal petition to him requested the appointment of a civil governor, either a native or an American, with

provision for a legislative assembly. It complained that there were then two governments on the island—the American military government, rigid and exacting; and the island government, which was a mere relic of Spanish sovereignty. The president reassured the delegates in general terms; and promises of a colonial commission to administer the affairs of Porto Rico, were cabled to San Juan. The commission consists of Gen. Robert P. Kennedy, Maj. Charles W. Watkins, and Henry G. Curtis. Even at that time prominent Porto Rican officials were quoted as intimating that there would be trouble if the American government did not soon terminate the military regime upon the island.

Subsequently the dissatisfaction grew, and in the latter part of February, the mayor and the majority of the municipal council of San Juan resigned rather than comply with a decree of the military governor. This incident excited much local irritation. It is chiefly important as indicating the feeling of subjection which the Porto Ricans feel that they are under to the military power of the United States. Gen. Henry insists, however, that he has strenuously avoided giving cause for such a feeling. In a newspaper interview on the subject early in the present month, he said:

Military government is not the best kind. I do not believe in military government. The American people do not believe in it. The army does not believe in it, and, as far as possible, I wanted these people to govern themselves and keep militarism in the background. I put the alcaldes and municipal council in control of the towns and cities. I established a native police force. The army was invariably kept from interfering in civil affairs unless the actions of the alcaldes and councils became so outrageous, as it has become in many places, that I was forced to declare martial law in each one.

An adjournment of the German reichstag was taken on the 21st until April 11. Dissolution had been imminent, over the defeat of the emperor on a provision of the army bill. The budget committee had disallowed an item for increasing the infantry by 7,000 men; and on the 14th, against the protests of the war minister, the reichstag sustained the committee, upon the second reading of the bill, by a vote of 209 to 141. It was then predicted in Berlin that if the vote upon the third reading did not change

this result and override the committee, the emperor would dissolve the reichstag, he being determined upon having the full quota of infantry asked for by the ministry. But the threatened crisis was averted by a compromise. The reichstag adopted the report of the committee disallowing the increase of 7,000 infantrymen, but passed a resolution to the effect that if at the expiration of five years it should be found that the army cannot be maintained on a satisfactory footing without the increase, the increase shall be allowed. This compromise was reluctantly accepted by the emperor, as the alternative of dissolving the reichstag and changing the result of a new election. But the ministry formally insisted upon the increase, for the purpose, it is surmised, of leaving the emperor free to renew his demand at subsequent sessions before the expiration of the five years. The bill was adopted on the 16th, with the additional resolution noted above, by a vote of 222 to 132. This bill increases the peace footing of the German army for the seventh time since 1872.

The most significant event of the week in American politics, is the publication of the correspondence between Perry Belmont and Wm. J. Bryan relative to an invitation to Mr. Bryan to attend a banquet of a Tammany hall social club at New York, of which Belmont is president, on the occasion of the anniversary of Jefferson's birthday. Mr. Bryan, in declining the invitation, expressed his appreciation of the compliment, but, referring to Mr. Belmont's having bolted the party at the late presidential election, he said:

Antagonism between our opinions is so great that we can't with propriety join in a political banquet in honor of Democracy's patron saint. Jefferson stood for certain well defined principles. If your views are a correct reflection of his ideas, I fear that my views would sound a discordant note at your banquet. If, on the other hand, the Chicago platform applies (as I believe it does) Jefferson's principles to present conditions, then your conspicuous presence at the Jefferson banquet would not honor the memory of the world's greatest Democrat. Do not misunderstand me. You may be right and I may be wrong, but I take it for granted that we are equally conscientious, and I trust that I may not show myself less courageous than you. You proclaimed to your fellow-citizens in 1896 that my election upon the Democratic platform would endanger the