

its war upon the Filipinos, with having engaged in piracy. Prof. James is right. If there were a friendly power to intercede for the Philippine republic, or an international tribunal to which it could appeal, the United States would be compelled, upon principles of international law, to abandon her Philippine policy. She maintains it now by force, and by force alone.

NEWS

The American censorship of the cable at Manila is reported as becoming more strict, and official reports as published give less information than ever; so that but little more is positively known of the situation in the Philippines than that almost daily conflicts are occurring between the Americans and the Filipinos, in which the latter appear to be driven back repeatedly from the same places. Regarding the censorship, the staff correspondent at Hong Kong of the Chicago Record says it is becoming so strict that he finds it "impossible to send dispatches giving a satisfactory explanation of the present situation."

Our account of last week brought such news as had then filtered through, down to the 1st, when an attack was made upon the American line at the water works and another at San Pedro Macati. On the night of that day unusual quiet was reported, the Filipinos being supposed to be busy in throwing up defenses in anticipation of having to meet American reinforcements; and from later reports this unusual quiet would seem to have continued through the 2d, for no account appears of any fighting on that day. But beginning with the 3d there has been fighting every day without exception.

San Pedro Macati was fired upon by Filipinos on the 3d from Guadalupe church, which they had captured from the Americans a fortnight before, as reported by us two weeks ago. They are reported to have been driven out by shells from a gunboat on the Pasig river; but they could not have been driven far, for on the 4th a large body was discovered attempting to re-enforce them. The gunboat thereupon advanced under a heavy fire and poured shot into the jungle and also shelled the Filipino position at Guadalupe. This is reported as having "ef-

fectually but temporarily" scattered the Filipino forces. From the village of San Jose, a suburb of Manila, also on the 4th, the Filipinos fired upon a gunboat, which thereupon shelled that place and other Manila suburbs. On the 5th there was an all night battle waged at two points for the possession of the Manila water works. The double attack was made by the Filipinos in the night and the battle continued until along in the forenoon of the 6th, when an American brigade succeeded in dispersing the assailants. Desultory firing and a skirmish occurred on the 6th after the affair at the water works, and fighting was renewed on the 7th. A body of Filipinos having taken a position where at a favorable opportunity they might injure the Manila water pipes, they were discovered and a sharp skirmish followed, in which the Filipinos were driven to their position at Guadalupe. But on the 8th they forced their way back. On the 8th, also, sharpshooters persistently annoyed the Americans at San Pedro Macati, as they had previously been doing daily both there and at other points. The Filipinos have an advantage in sharpshooting, because they use Mausers, which have a longer range than the Springfields with which the Americans are armed. They are also supplied with smokeless powder.

The hot season is now well on in the Philippines, and the American troops are beginning to feel its severity. At 3 o'clock on the 7th the temperature was at 84 degrees; and the heat was so oppressive that on the American lines 25 men were prostrated during the day. The temperature on the 8th rose to 87, and the humid air was like steam; but there were fewer prostrations.

Reinforcements for both army and navy are hurrying to Manila. The hospital ship "Relief" sailed from New York on the 2d, and on the same day the transport "Portland" sailed from San Francisco. On the 3d the transport "Sherman" with 1,700 men touched at the Island of Perim, Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, having left New York just a month before; and the transport "Sheridan" with 1,800 arrived at Gibraltar, leaving there on the 4th. Five regiments of infantry and part of one regiment of artillery, numbering in all 7,500 men, stationed now in different parts of the United States, are under orders to go to Ma-

nila. It is understood that they are to relieve volunteers already there. On the 4th Gen. Lawton's command of 700 arrived at Singapore; and on the 5th the transport "Valencia" sailed from San Francisco. The transport "Senator" has arrived at Manila. The total army and navy strength at Manila, on the way there, and now under orders to go, is 41,000. Gen. Otis has announced that he would confer with Aguinaldo, but only to require unconditional surrender. Admiral Dewey is reported to be in almost a dying condition, from the strain of his responsibilities and the unhealthy climatic conditions.

Provision has been made at Iloilo for quartering American troops in the custom house at an expense of \$40,000 to be met from the public revenue of Iloilo. One report has it that all is quiet there and business brisk; while another declares that business is dead and skirmishes beyond the city continue at intervals. A third mentions continuous operations of Filipino sharpshooters against the American outposts.

An agreeable reception of troops upon the Island of Negros was reported on the 6th by Gen. Otis, who cables to Washington the following congratulatory address from a native commission to Gen. Miller:

Government congress inhabitants of Negros to Gen. Miller, Iloilo: We affectionately salute you and congratulate ourselves for the happy arrival of Col. Smith and troops under his orders, and beg you to send this salute and congratulations to Gen. Otis, Manila, as representative of the government of the United States in the Philippines.

Pursuant to the arrangement between the German and American governments, which we reported last week, the American authorities at Manila have assumed responsibility for the protection of German interests there; and the German warship, Kaiserin Augusta, has left Manila bay.

Two members of President McKinley's Philippine committee, J. G. Schuerman, President of Cornell University, and Prof. Dean C. Worcester, of the University of Michigan, have arrived at Manila. They came in on the 4th on board the cruiser Baltimore from Hong Kong. This commission was appointed to act as an advisory board to the president.

It consists of five members—Admiral Dewey, Gen. Otis, Chas. Denby, President Schuerman and Prof. Worcester. Denby is the only member of the commission not yet at Manila.

Nothing has yet been done in Spain with reference to ratifying the Paris treaty. The attempt to carry out its provisions has resulted in the resignation of the Sagasta ministry, as we reported last week, and now in the dissolution of the cortes. A nominal success was achieved on the 22d of February by the Sagasta ministry, in connection with the appointment of the committee to examine the bill for the cession of the Philippines to the United States. Four ministerial candidates were chosen, and three in opposition. But it became apparent in the voting that the opposition could muster a majority, and this encouraged their leaders to propose a counter measure on the Philippine matter. Consequently, on the 1st of March the Sagasta ministry resigned, hoping that the queen would dissolve the cortes. But the queen at first decided to appoint a new cabinet. For that purpose she asked Silvela, the conservative leader, to undertake the responsibility of forming one. Accordingly, on the 4th the following cabinet was sworn into office:

Senor Silvela, premier and minister of foreign affairs; Senor Dato, minister of the interior; Marquis Villaverde, minister of finance; Senor Duran, minister of justice; Gen. Polievaja, minister of war; Marquis Pidal, minister of public affairs and of the colonies; Admiral Camara, minister of marine.

Upon entering upon its duties the new ministry adopted a policy of protection to industry, commerce, and agriculture; reform in municipal and provincial administration; sweeping army and navy reforms, and general financial reorganization. And as the first step, it decided on the 5th to abolish all ministerial pensions. Ex-Premier Sagasta tendered to the new premier the support of the liberal party, of which he is leader, on all questions relating to the integrity of the nation and the perpetuation of the dynasty. Having seated a conservative cabinet, the queen decided to dissolve the cortes. This was accordingly done on the 7th. A new chamber will be elected in April, and the cortes will reconvene in May. The effect of the dissolution of the cortes upon the Paris treaty has not yet been determined. It is held by the new premier, however, that the treaty can be ratified without the sanction of the

cortes, and therefore that the dissolution will have no effect in that particular.

During this ministerial crisis in Spain the prosecutions of military officers, previously begun, upon charges of misconduct in the American war, have proceeded. Admiral Cervera is being prosecuted for the disaster to the Spanish fleet at Santiago. Capt. Diaz de Moreu of the destroyed Cristobal Colon is also under prosecution in the same connection. Another victim of these proceedings is Gen. Linares, who was in supreme command in Santiago at the time of the capitulation. His second in command, too, is to be tried. And so are Admiral Montejo, the Spanish commander of the battle of Manila bay, and Capt. Gen. Augusti, late governor general of the Philippines.

China is now threatened in a new direction. Italy comes forward with a demand for a share of Oriental spoils, and threatens to back up the demand with a squadron. Specifically, the Italian demand is for a 99 years lease of San Mun Bay as a coal-station and naval base, on the same conditions as those under which Germany holds Kiao-Chou. This bay is one of the indentations made in the Chinese coast by the Eastern Sea, and is located a little to the south of Ning-po. The demanded concession includes three islands off the coast of Chekiang province, with a right to construct a railway from San Mun Bay to Po Yang lake, and preferential mining rights within a "sphere of influence" covering the southern two thirds of Chekiang province. The Italian minister of foreign affairs, in answer to questions in the Italian chamber of deputies on the 3d, confirmed the reports on this subject, and said that notice of the intention of Italy had been given to the other nations in China, all of which were friendly to the project. The United States was one of the nations to receive this notice. Great Britain is understood to be engaged directly in instigating the Italian government. China has objected to granting the demand. The Chinese foreign office returned the dispatch, with a declaration that the Chinese government is unable to accede to its requirements; and the terms of the refusal were resented in Rome as "insolence." Preparations are making there to enforce the demand with a fleet. Meanwhile diplomatic inter-

course has been suspended by Italy and marines have been landed at San Mun Bay, from an Italian war ship. At last reports Italy was in possession, and the Chinese government was offering to apologize for the terms in which it had couched its reply to the Italian demand. In China it is believed that the Italian seizure of San Mun Bay is the beginning of a concerted attempt on the part of the European powers to parcel out the Chinese empire.

In addition to her difficulties with European powers bent on partitioning the empire among themselves, of which the Italian invasion noted above is a flagrant instance, China is wrenched with civil war. Vague reports of it have reached this country at intervals during a period of many months, and brief accounts of the matter were given on page 11 in Nos. 8 and 16 of 'The Public.' According to the latest mail advices, thousands of rebels in the central provinces of Hoonan, Honan, Nganhoei, Kiangsee, and Hoop have succeeded in combining their forces and in establishing their authority over an immense territory. In a succession of terrible battles they recently defeated the imperial troops, and four walled cities and 75 walled villages had already been captured by them. They were then preparing to make still further important captures. Famine caused by oppressive taxation is the only explanation of the rebellion so far reported.

Passing from the subject of civil war in China to politics in the United States, we note the final adjournment of the 55th congress. This occurred at noon on the 4th. The president had signed the bill appropriating \$20,000,000 for the purchase of the Philippines, and the house had refused to sustain its committee's report vacating the seats of congressmen who had accepted commissions from the president in the volunteer army. The objection to their holding seats was constitutional, and stress was laid upon the danger of permitting presidential appointees, and especially military officers, to acquire a foothold in the house of representatives. Owing to the failure of the report, which was largely opposed by democratic votes, Mr. Bailey announced that he would not be a candidate for democratic leader in the next house. The Nicaragua canal question was disposed of for the present by a compromise