

religious or economic. In economics he objects to socialism not because it is too radical, but because it is not radical; because he "can see in it at best but a transition method and period, a new wilderness journey and discipline, on the way to liberty." He rejects Christian anarchism as exemplified by Tolstoi, "the lofty Russian prophet," not because its program is extreme in the direction of the future, but because it seems to him to be very reactionary. He keeps out of the single tax camp—

Not because that camp is too far in the social advance, but because it occupies no more than the place of a surveying or engineering corps; when the land is once free, and the depraved system of force, fraud and perjury which we call taxation is removed, with the parasitical governmental functions which the system entails, we have then merely cleared the ground for the social problem; the question of human relations and destiny remains to be answered, and to this Mr. George would agree.

Herron stands "simply as an interpreter of Jesus, as an advocate of his ideal of human relations." This is an attainable Christian brotherhood, he holds, a brotherhood ruled by the law of love, the firm foundations of which can be fixed, and if we become really Christian will be fixed, in natural economic law.

To close his plea for this Christian renaissance Prof. Herron discourses on "the victory of failure." Measured by conventional standards the life of Jesus was a failure from beginning to end. It was without a single complete example of success. Yet, had his life been otherwise he could not have been the savior of men. So has it always been. "It is through the sacrifice and failure of the individual idealist that human emancipation has proceeded from the beginning." And now, "the supreme need of the social crisis is that of strong men willing to fail, that they may prove the justice of love and the wisdom of love's sacrifice. Above all else, society needs deliverance from the impracticability of the practical man, from the failure of his successes."

To read Herron's book is to understand why he is feared. It is not

because he advocates violence; in fact he condemns that. It is not because he advocates expropriation of just property; he does not. Neither is it because he holds up an ideal of social life in which equality holds sway; privileged orders never fear ideals if they be preached merely as ideals. It is because he recognizes and advocates as the first and fundamental thing to be done to realize the ideal which Jesus proclaimed, a perfectly practicable economic reform whereby the privilege of private ownership in land would be abolished. He is an idealist with a practical method, an idealist with the sword of justice in his hand and his feet upon the ground. For that reason he is a menace to plutocracy, and for that reason plutocracy fears him and seeks to silence him.

## NEWS

Fighting in the Philippines has been shifted from the region of the Pasig river and the lake, to the north in the direction of Malolos, the Filipino capital. The river and the western shores of the lake being in control of the American forces, the Filipino army, as will be remembered, was cut in two. This was the first step in the American plan for conquering it piecemeal. At our last report, that had been accomplished; and after the 19th fighting in the Pasig river region stopped, except for desultory firing upon the Americans by Filipinos. After two or three days of comparative quiet, the next movement in the American plan began. This contemplated a campaign against the northern wing of the Filipino army, with Malolos for the objective, it being understood that with the fall of that city the Filipino army would disintegrate and the war be ended.

While apparently inactive for several days after the 19th, the American force was being reorganized for the Malolos campaign, and on the 25th the first advance was made. At day-break 11,000 American troops moved upon Malabon, a town about six miles north of Manila, which the Americans were reported to have captured more than six weeks ago (see No. 46, page 8), but where the Filipinos were now so securely entrenched that a hot battle was necessary to dislodge them. The news reports describe the result

of this battle as "a sweeping victory." Three lines of Filipino trenches were taken and the Filipinos retreated northward along the railroad toward Polo. As the main body of the Filipino army had been moved down from Malolos to Malibon, it was part of the American plan to surround it there; but the Filipinos succeeded in keeping open their line of retreat, and this part of the American plan wholly failed.

Though the Filipinos retreated, they did so slowly, fighting every inch of the ground from successive lines of trenches. On the 26th the Americans closed in on Polo, and the Filipinos resumed their retreat, firing as they went. They would fire a few volleys from their cover, and then hurry back to other cover. These tactics they repeated, so that the day's work for the Americans consisted in storming successive trenches. Before vacating Polo, the Filipinos set it on fire, and when the Americans came up they found it deserted and burned almost to ashes. The Americans pushed on beyond Polo, after the Filipino rear guard; and on the 27th they captured Meicauayan, a place about two miles beyond Polo, but not without a fight, and advanced to Marilao. All along the way, the Filipinos fought desperately, and the country between Marilao and Manila is described as presenting a picture of desolation. "Smoke curls from hundreds of ash heaps, and the remains of trees and fences torn by shrapnel are to be seen everywhere. The general appearance of the country is as if it had been swept by a cyclone. The roads are strewn with furniture and clothing dropped in flight by the Filipinos. The only persons remaining behind are a few aged persons, too infirm to escape. They camp beside the ruins of the former homes and beg passers-by for any kind of assistance. The majority of them are living on the generosity of our soldiers; who give them portions of their rations. The dogs of the Filipinos cower in the bushes, still terrified and barking, while hundreds of pigs are to be seen searching for food." Upon abandoning Marilao, the Filipinos set it on fire and continued their retreat.

It had by that time been found impossible to pen in the Filipinos between two advancing lines, as had been designed, and the decisive battle which the Americans had been trying to force was considered as like-

ly to be delayed until the retreating and the pursuing armies should reach Malolos. Malolos is out of the range of the guns of the fleet, which had thus far supported the American advance. One of the naval movements was to send gunboats up the estuary to Bulacan, about midway between Marilao and Malolos. Upon discovering this movement the Filipino garrison burned that town and withdrew beyond the reach of naval guns.

A new and evidently unexpected move on the part of the Filipinos was discovered on the 28th. They were then found to be shifting their seat of government from Malolos to San Fernando, a town some 20 miles northwest of Malolos, and off the line of railroad. It was inferred from this that they would not accept pitched battle at Malolos, as had been hoped, but were pursuing their plan of drawing the American army farther into the interior, and away not only from the possibility of help from warships but also from its base of supplies. This change, if carried out and supplemented as it likely would be by the burning of Malolos, would deprive the capture of that place by the Americans of all military and moral advantage. On the 28th, the day of this discovery, the Americans followed the retreating Filipinos to Cavite, fighting all the way as before, and captured that town; and on the 29th, after fierce fighting, they had advanced as far as Guiguinto, which is less than four miles from Malolos. Dispatches of the 29th confirm the report of the removal of the Filipino government from Malolos to San Fernando.

The American casualties reported up to the 27th from the beginning of the war were 157 killed and 864 wounded. But these reports, owing to the cable censorship at Manila, are not trustworthy. Newspaper reporters are forbidden to cable casualties in advance of official reports. The losses will probably prove to have been much greater than the number now conceded. This opinion is based in part upon the indications that the fighting was hard and the admissions in the reports that Filipino marksmanship had improved, as well as upon the reports that the Filipinos had the advantage of position; and in part upon the fact that mail advices as to the casualties at Manila when the Philippine war began show that in the censored cable reports those cas-

ualties were grossly underestimated. For example, a mail correspondent of the Minneapolis Journal—A. A. Law, captain and assistant surgeon of the Thirtieth Minnesota—writes of finding 15 American dead in one place; of the complete wiping out of company M of his regiment, 26 of its members having been killed; of the wounded dying on the table and even after having their wounds dressed. He counted 49 in the deadroom of the hospital. His letter indicates still greater slaughter, but these figures alone exceed those that were reported by cable. Gen. Otis's official report of the deaths up to February 7—the date of Capt. Law's letter—put the number at only 51. Among the killed in the battles of the present month were Col. Egbert, of the Twenty-second, and the German prince Lowenstein, formerly a volunteer aid on Gen. Miller's staff.

In the island of Negros, the disturbances to which we referred last week appear to continue, though the Manila censor forbids the cabling of facts. On the 28th censored press dispatches from Manila asserted that late advices from Negros were to the effect that all was quiet, and that the American battalion which had been sent there had been received by the natives with every manifestation of joy. But a dispatch of the 29th from Singapore to the Associated Press reports that "the inhabitants repudiate the self-constituted authority of the provisional government to arrange affairs with the Americans and have attacked the Americans." This dispatch adds that "the censor at Manila has suppressed the details."

Efforts to terminate the Philippine war by friendly negotiations appear to have been set on foot by British authority. This is reported in the Associated Press dispatch of the 29th, from Singapore, quoted from above, which says:

The insurgents in Luzon sent a message to Lieutenant-Commander Cowper, of the British gunboat *Plover*, when the latter endeavored to effect a compromise, suggesting that they were ready to treat for peace through a neutral great power.

The United States has now entered upon another war in the Pacific islands. This war is against the Samoans; and the United States is cooperating with Great Britain in prosecuting it. A full account of the

relations of the United States to Samoa, together with the circumstances leading up to the present war, was given in these columns two weeks ago (No. 50, page 9). The native election of king had resulted in the choice of Mataafa by 75 per cent. of the voters. But the American chief justice, who holds his place under the protectorate treaty between England, Germany and the United States, held, for some as yet unexplained reason, that Mataafa was disqualified, and awarded the native throne to young Malietoa, son of the late king, who had contested the election with Mataafa and received 25 per cent. of the votes. Thereupon Mataafa made war upon Malietoa, defeated him, and established a government which the three treaty powers have since recognized provisionally, though it has been understood that they would support young Malietoa. Upon the arrival of Rear Admiral Kautz, in command of the American warship *Philadelphia*, a conference of the consuls and senior naval officers was held, at which it was decided to put down the Mataafa government; and on March 15, Admiral Kautz issued an ultimatum commanding Mataafa to withdraw from the municipality of Apia by one o'clock on that day, and threatening bombardment at that hour in case of refusal. The ultimatum was ignored, and, according to the report of the 23d, which reached New Zealand on the 29th, and was then cabled from there, Mataafa began an attack about 12:30 upon Apia "in the direction of the United States and British consulates," whereupon the *Philadelphia* and two British warships opened fire on the distant native villages. At the time of the report the bombardment had continued intermittently for eight days. Several native villages had been destroyed, and there had been much destruction of life; but upon these points details are lacking.

A long stride in the direction of Americanizing municipal ownership of street railroads has been taken in Michigan. A bill was passed by the legislature on the 23d authorizing the purchase by the city of Detroit of the street railway system now in operation there under private ownership; and on the 24th Gov. Pingree signed the bill. This bill, now a law, provides for the appointment by the Detroit city council of a street railway commission which may, in its discretion and upon such terms and conditions as it may deem advisable for