

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-

missioners desired that the whole question should be referred on terms similar to those provided in the reference of the Venezuelan boundary line, which, by providing an umpire, would insure certainty and finality. The United States commissioners, on the other hand, thought the local conditions in Alaska so different that some modifications of the Venezuelan boundary reference should be introduced. They thought the reference should be made to six eminent jurists, three chosen by each of the high contracting parties, without providing for an umpire, they believing that finality would be secured by a majority vote of the jurists so chosen. They did not see any present prospect of agreeing to a European umpire, to be selected in the manner proposed by the British commissioners, while the British commissioners were unwilling to agree to the selection of an American umpire in the manner suggested by the United States commissioners.

The United States commissioners further contend that special stipulations should be made in any reference to arbitration that the existing settlements on the tidewaters of the coast should in any result continue to belong to the United States. To this contention the British commissioners refused to agree.

It was therefore deemed advisable to adjourn to a convenient date in order to enable the respective governments to further consider the subject, with respect to which no conclusion has yet been reached.

In the domestic politics of the United States the subjects of general interest are the renomination by the republicans of Cleveland of Mayor McKisson, against the active opposition of Senator Hanna; and the opening by ex-Gov. Altgeld of his mayoralty campaign in Chicago.

Mayor McKisson has persistently fought Senator Hanna's street car interests in Cleveland, opposing the extension of franchises and advocating public ownership. Upon this record he was nominated on the 20th for the third time, though his opponent, Judge Stone, is a popular man locally, in every respect except as to his political relations with Senator Hanna.

Altgeld's campaign opening in Chicago on the 18th was an astonishing success. The large hall was packed and thousands were turned away. The ex-governor's speech was a carefully prepared indictment of the city administration for official misfeasance and malfeasance, including the story of an evident and successful conspiracy to circumvent the civil service

law. The details of this conspiracy had already been made public by John Z. White in a speech the night previous, before the single tax club. It consists in the mayor's making "emergency" appointments for every position to be filled, care being often taken to see that the emergency appointees pass the civil service examination at the head of the list. Altgeld laid especial stress in his opening speech upon his policy of immediate adoption of municipal ownership of the street railway system, but did not discuss national politics.

American Catholics in the United States have for several weeks been expecting the publication of a papal letter to Cardinal Gibbons relative to disputed questions in the American church. Such a letter it now appears was written January 22. It was published in Rome, in the official organ of the church there, on the 22d of February, but has not yet appeared in full in the United States. Indeed, on the 22d, it had not yet reached Cardinal Gibbons. Cabled extracts from Rome indicate that it reflects upon Father Elliott's "Life of Father Hecker" as containing blame-worthy opinions regarding the Holy Ghost, passive virtues, and religious vows. Beyond this there is so far no indication of the attitude of the pope toward what is spoken of as "Americanism" in the church. The Rome correspondent of the London Chronicle says of it:

The pope's letter to Cardinal Gibbons will possibly be exploited by the anti-Americans; but on the whole it is not unfavorable to American Catholicism."

NEWS NOTES.

—The indictments against Gov. Tanner in connection with the Virden coal lockout have been dismissed.

—The Illinois supreme court holds the city of Chicago pecuniarily responsible for private damages caused by mob violence in the railroad strike of 1894.

—The legislature of North Carolina has voted to submit to the people a constitutional amendment requiring educational and poll tax tests of negro voters, but exempting white voters from the same tests.

—Mrs. Frances S. Lee presided one day last week as speaker pro tem. in the lower house of the Colorado legislature. Her service in the chair was entirely satisfactory to the body of which she is a member.

—On March 1st at Cincinnati a national conference in the interest of

direct legislation will be held at Cincinnati, O., under the auspices of the Ohio Union reform party. M. A. Neff, 34 East Sixth street, Cincinnati, has charge of preliminary details.

—Chairman Jones, of the national democratic committee, has appointed an advisory committee consisting of himself, Stephen M. White, of California; D. J. Campau, of Michigan; Norman Mack, of New York; John P. Altgeld, of Illinois, and George Fred Williams, of Massachusetts. The selection of Altgeld, instead of the national committeeman for Illinois, who is a supporter of Mayor Harrison, is regarded as significant.

—Prof. George P. Herron gave the first of a series of eight lectures on the evening of the 19th at Central Music hall, Chicago, before a large audience. The remaining lectures of the series will be given every Sunday night at the same place. His general topic is: "Between Caesar and Jesus." On the 20th Prof. Herron began, also at Central Music hall, a series of eight lectures on "Municipal Ideals." This series will be given every Monday noon at Central Music hall.

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.

February 11 to 20, 1899.

Senate.

On Saturday, the 11th, unanimous consent was given to take up the Philippine resolution offered by Senator McEnery, and to dispose of it at two o'clock on the 14th. Consideration of the legislative appropriation bill was then resumed and the bill passed. The agricultural appropriation bill and the bill for the payment of state expenses for the volunteer army were considered. The latter was passed. On Monday the 13th the bill to remove disabilities of Confederates, the bill to create the office of admiral in the navy, and the agricultural appropriation bill were passed. The passage of the Confederate disabilities bill was reconsidered on the 14th, after which the McEnery joint resolution was debated and voted upon pursuant to agreement of the 11th. The resolution as proposed was as follows:

That by the ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain it is not intended to incorporate the inhabitants of the Philippine islands into citizenship of the United States, nor is it intended to permanently annex said islands as an integral part of the territory of the United States; but it is the intention of the United States to establish on said islands a government suitable to the wants and conditions of the inhabitants of said islands to prepare them for local self-government, and in due time to make such disposition of said islands as will best promote the interests of the citizens of the United States and the inhabitants of said islands.

The following addition was offered by way of amendment: