

seeds of discontent planted by professional agitators are rapidly growing, and can be kept down only by a strong military force.

In Cuba, too, new complications have arisen. The United States government was anxious to secure the disbandment of the Cuban army; and to accomplish that purpose offered Gen. Gomez \$3,000,000 as a gift, for distribution among his troops, conditioned upon their yielding up their arms and returning to peaceful pursuits. Early in February, Gen. Gomez accepted the offer, and regulations for the disbursement of the fund were agreed upon. Thereupon Gen. Gomez telegraphed President McKinley that he was now aware of and pleased with his wishes, and would go to Havana and confer with Gen. Brooke, with a view to cooperating in the work of reconstructing Cuba. Accordingly, about three weeks later, Gen. Gomez repaired with a large detachment of his troops to Havana, where the American military authorities received him with military honors, and the people went wild with enthusiasm. Meantime murmurs were heard among the Cubans against Gen. Gomez for having agreed to disband the army without permission from the Cuban assembly. And when the assembly met at Marianao to receive the report of the committee it had sent to Washington, Gen. Gomez, who had been expected to preside, neither attended nor sent any representative or message. A committee was appointed to wait upon him and ask explanations. This committee performed its mission on the 10th, and upon the basis of its report, Gen. Gomez having refused to answer, the assembly, on the 11th, impeached him and removed him from his office as general-in-chief of the Cuban army. There were 26 votes in the affirmative and 4 in the negative.

Before the official notification of his impeachment had reached Gen. Gomez, he accepted the decision of the assembly in an open letter, in which he said:

In virtue of the supreme power vested in it alone, the assembly, representing the army, has deposed me from my position of general in chief of the army, conferred upon me during the revolution just ended. In that high place I have been mindful only of the inspirations of my conscience and the necessities of my country. I have endeavored always and under all circumstances to do my duty. The assembly

esteems it an act of insubordination and disrespect in me not to aid them in their effort to secure a loan which would compromise the financial and political security of Cuba, which should come later to exercise its own sovereignty as a republic of union and concord, as proclaimed in the manifesto of Monte Cristo, and sustained and defended on the field of battle, free from all compromise and safeguarded in every point touching national honor. This is the fundamental cause of the decision which the assembly has taken toward me. For the rest, in all sincerity I confess I am full of gratitude; for the decision leaves me free to retire to my abandoned home, my only aspiration after 30 years of fighting for the welfare of Cuba, which I so much love. Alien as I am, I did not come to serve Cuba and the cause of justice in a mercenary spirit. Now that the oppressor is banished from Cuba, I am free to return my sword to its scabbard, believing that the mission which I voluntarily assumed is fulfilled. Cuba owes me nothing. I retire glad, satisfied at having accomplished my utmost in behalf of my fellow men. Wherever destiny may put me, there Cuba can always count on a devoted friend.

In mentioning the assembly's efforts to secure a loan, Gen. Gomez alludes to a measure of the assembly asking authority of the United States to contract a public debt of \$12,000,000, upon the security of Cuban revenues, in lieu of accepting \$3,000,000 as a gift from the United States, for the purpose of paying off the Cuban army. The assembly has replied to his open letter with a manifesto, and Cuba is at fever heat about the matter.

What the United States will do, now that Gen. Gomez's authority to distribute the \$3,000,000 and disband his army is terminated, is as yet matter of conjecture only. It is guessed, however, that Gen. Brooke will forcibly, however, that Gen. Brooke will continue to recognize Gomez as the only responsible agent through whom payments can be made; and that if the Cuban assembly interferes, he will disperse it by force. On the 15th, after an interview between Brooke and Gomez, it was announced that payment would begin promptly under the original agreement. The \$3,000,000 was sent, in coin, on the 13th, to Havana from New York, on board the transport Meade, under convoy of the cruiser Chicago.

The American difficulties in Samoa, the beginning of which we reported in No. 42, page 11, are now in all probability adjusted. Samoa

consists of 14 volcanic islands in the South Pacific, which were formerly known as the Navigators' Islands. The population is about 34,000, all but a few hundred being natives, though they are nominally Christians. By treaty of June 14, 1889, between Great Britain, Germany and the United States, signed at Berlin, the independence of these islands was assured, and the equal rights of citizens of the three treaty powers to residence, trade and personal protection, guaranteed. The treaty provided for the election of a king by the natives, pursuant to their own customs, and established a supreme court, consisting of one chief justice, to be appointed by the treaty powers, for the adjudication of disputes of common concern. It also provided for the administration by the treaty powers of the municipal district of Apia, the only town. At the time of the disturbances reported in No. 42, and mentioned again below, the chief justice was William L. Chambers, an American, while the municipal president of Apia was Dr. Raffel, a German. The disturbances arose over the election by the natives of a new king. Malietoa Laupepa had been king from 1880 to 1887. In the latter year he was deposed on a charge of robbing and maltreating Germans, and Tamasese took his place. An insurrection broke out against Tamasese in 1888, led by a chief known as Mataafa. Mataafa was victorious over Tamasese, but the Germans interposed, and in consequence of their declaring war against Mataafa, the treaty of Berlin, which is mentioned above, was signed. Pursuant to that treaty, Malietoa was restored to the native throne. Rebellious again, in 1893, and being subdued, Mataafa was exiled by the powers. But upon the death of King Malietoa Laupepa, which occurred August 22, last, Mataafa and his followers were allowed to return. He forthwith entered the contest for king, being opposed by Malietoa Tanus, son of the late king. Mataafa was the choice at the election, of 75 per cent. of the voters; but a contest was instituted which came before Chief Justice Chambers for decision. Proceedings began before the chief justice December 19. He produced at the outset a draft agreement for the two contestants to sign stipulating to abide by his decision. Young Malietoa readily did so, but Mataafa declined. The trial proceeded, however, and on December 31, the chief justice declared Malietoa Tanus to

have been elected—notwithstanding that he had received but 25 per cent. of the votes—on the theory that Mataafa was disqualified under the treaty. What the basis for this theory may have been is unknown. Mataafa is not disqualified by the terms of the treaty; and the probability is that the chief justice spelled out a disqualification under the treaty from the fact of Mataafa's subsequent rebellion. Upon the announcement of Judge Chambers's decision, Mataafa gave battle to Malietoa Tanus and conquered him. In this he appears to have had the support of the German representatives; and when the chief justice sought safety on a British warship the German president of the Apia municipality, Dr. Raffel, assumed the functions of the supreme court, which, however, he soon relinquished. These events gave rise to diplomatic complications between the United States and Great Britain on the one hand and Germany on the other. After numerous conferences and the exchange of many notes, a satisfactory agreement between the treaty powers was reached on the 13th. Dr. Wilhelm Wolf has been nominated by Germany, and recognized by the United States and Great Britain, as president of the municipal council of Apia, in place of Dr. Raffel, whose actions caused the international misunderstanding. Prior to this adjustment the German government had instructed its consul at Apia to recognize the authority of Chief Justice Chambers. It may be concluded, therefore, that the three powers have agreed upon regarding Malietoa Tanus as king. He is a boy of only 15. The vice king, elected with him, is Tamasese, who occupied the throne when in 1889 the treaty powers restored the late King Malietoa.

Passing on to China, we find that the actual seizure of San Mun bay, by Italy, reported last week, is officially denied. It was reported from Peking on the 11th, however, that the Italian minister had on the 10th made a request for the cession of the territory in question, which was in the nature of an ultimatum. This was confirmed two days later; but with the additional information that Italy had disavowed the ultimatum by recalling her minister. She has temporarily confided her Chinese interests to the British ambassador.

The quarrel of England and Russia, regarding their Chinese interests,

has been put at rest for a time at least. An outline of this quarrel was given in Nos. 19 and 20, at pages 10 and 9 respectively. It grew out of the New-Chwang and Tient-sin railway loan. The Russians claimed that the Chinese foreign office had pledged itself to grant to no other power the contract of any railway in Manchuria, the province in which New-Chwang lies. Regardless of this pledge, if it existed, the Chinese gave to British capitalists a lien on the railway mentioned, to secure a large loan. Russia accordingly disputed the validity of the lien at first, and England refused to abandon it. At last, however, Russia has yielded. On the 10th the czar's government advised the Chinese foreign office that as a result of negotiations between Russia and Great Britain, Russia would withdraw her protest. Negotiations between Russia and England are said to be now in progress for the amicable adjustment between themselves of all their interests in China.

Besides settling her Chinese quarrel with England, Russia has this week arranged for the czar's peace congress. It is to be held at the Hague on May 18. The plans involve an exchange of views with reference, first, to seeking means for putting a stop to the progressive increase of military and naval armaments; and, second, to the preparation of the way for a discussion of the questions relating to the possibility of preventing armed conflicts by the pacific means at the disposal of international diplomacy. Should this preliminary interchange of views prove satisfactory the congress is then to proceed to the arrangement of an understanding—

1. Not to increase for a fixed period the present effective of the armed military and naval forces, and at the same time not to increase the budgets pertaining thereto.
2. To prohibit the use in the armies and fleets of any new kind of firearms whatever and of new explosives, or any powders more powerful than those now in use, either for rifles or cannon.
3. To restrict the use in military warfare of the formidable explosives already existing, and to prohibit the throwing of projectiles or explosives of any kind from balloons or by similar means.
4. To prohibit the use in naval warfare of submarine torpedo boats or plungers or other similar engines of destruction; to give an understanding not to construct vessels with rams in the future.

5. To apply to naval warfare the stipulations of the Geneva convention of 1864 on the basis of the articles added to the convention of 1868.

6. To neutralize ships and boats employed in saving those overboard during or after an engagement.

7. To revise the declaration concerning the laws and customs of war elaborated in 1874 by the conference of Brussels, which has remained unratified to the present day.

8. To accept in principle the employment of the good offices of mediation and facultative arbitration in cases lending themselves thereto, with the object of preventing armed conflicts between nations; an understanding with respect to applying these good offices, and the establishment of a uniform practice in using them.

American politics yields no news of national concern except the failure of the Delaware legislature to elect a senator. That body has adjourned without day with the senatorial deadlock still on. Upon the 15th and final ballot the vote stood: Addicks, 21; Gray, 4; Hardy, 5; Salisbury, 3; Dupont, 9; Biggs, 6; Higgins, 2. The senatorial deadlocks still hold in Pennsylvania, Utah and California.

Altgeld's mayoralty campaign in Chicago gains force every day. His meetings are packed, and people are turned away for want of room. Even his Wednesday noon-day meetings in the central business district overflow. A full city ticket is being nominated by petitions now in circulation. While Altgeld's subjects of discussion relate to national politics and to honest local administration, the great strength of his position lies in his demand for municipal ownership of public utilities. How strong Chicago sentiment upon that subject has become may be inferred from the fact that a resolution memorializing the state government to enact legislation allowing the city to own and control gas and electric works was adopted by the Chicago council on the 13th by a vote of 50 to 2.

NEWS NOTES.

—The heaviest snowstorm in the history of Michigan occurred on the 12th.

—Prof. Herron's Sunday night and Monday noon lectures continue at Central Music hall, Chicago.

—President McKinley left Washington on the 13th for a ten-days vacation with Senator Hanna at Thomasville, Ga.

—The net profit of the municipal gas works at Baden, reported for the fiscal