



THE VLAKFONTEIN FIGHT.

IT REKINDLES PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

ANDREW CARNEGIE AS A JOB'S COMFORTER—LITERARY AND PERSONAL NEWS.

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London, June 1, 1 a. m.—General Kitchener's account of the battle of Vlakfontein serves to light up public interest once more in the Boer war. Two facts stand out: First, the determined nature of the Boer assault upon an entrenched position, fifty miles from Johannesburg; and, secondly, the heavy losses suffered by both sides. This has been the first real engagement which has been fought for many months, and it is decisive proof that the Boers, when led by a cool and wary general like De la Rey, can still offer strenuous resistance to British arms. The details of this battle may indicate that General Dixon's force was surprised, and that the casualty list was run up to 174 in this way. But the Boers, in any event, were not repulsed, and were not without severe losses. The Boers are also reported to have fought with exceptional gallantry while in pursuit of General Plumer's column.

A British officer who is on furlough after fighting from Colenso to Lydenburg has been predicting that the closing skirmishes of the campaign would occur on the line of the Durban-Johannesburg Railway in the vicinity of Heidelberg and Standerton. Both of these affairs were within the theatre of war defined by this officer months ago as the last Boer ditch. The natural explanation of the fighting is that one mine after another is opening in the Rand and the refugees are returning to Johannesburg in small groups, and the Boers have been making desperate efforts to frighten them and to prevent resumption of industry in the gold belt. Vlakfontein was probably designed to be a loud warning to the Johannesburgers that the war had not ended, and that Johannesburg was still an unsafe place of residence.

Andrew Carnegie's "Nineteenth Century" strictures on "British Pessimism" are still attracting much attention. Mr. Carnegie is regarded as one of Job's comforters in analyzing and rebuking the despondency prevailing in iron and steel circles here, and especially in contending that the strongest proof of British financial credit is the fact that it has not been demoralized by reckless expenditures and by a systematic policy of provoking wars and antagonizing foreign countries. As such comfort is a grave mistake for Americans to assume that England's commercial and industrial supremacy is at an end, Mr. Carnegie could afford to be tolerant when his article was appearing in the same magazine which published Frederic Harrison's optimistic impressions of America.

The literary weeklies are dry this week, owing to the dulness of the book trade. Harry Furniss's autobiography, with chapters describing the Presidential election in America, and a novel by Mrs. de la Pasture, entitled "Catherine of Calais," are promised, with another Tolstoy book by G. H. Ferris.

There will be a wonderful sale of ancient manuscripts and medieval bindings at Sotheby's early in June. This is a collection made by Paul Barrois and purchased by Lord Ashburnham. Many of these treasures were stolen from famous French libraries and were returned, but a matchless collection of French and Italian romances of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries remains, with bindings designed for kings and ornamented with painted enamels, miniatures and gems. This collection is expected to rival the Hamilton sale thirteen years ago and yield \$750,000.

Speaking in the House of Commons on May 23, Sir Alfred Hickman accused the directors of the Indian railway companies in good round terms. Their contracts, he said, were made on no business principle and were entered into without regard to efficiency, public safety or real economy. He complained that American locomotives used on the Burmese Railway lacked strength, and endeavored to show that the Gohet Viaduct, constructed by the Baldwin Company, was badly built. To-day the reply of the Secretary for India to the indictment is published. To make a long story short, the case is just that of the Athara Bridge over again.

Mrs. Humphry Ward was unable through a violent attack of neuralgia to read a paper on "Preparation of the Christian Ideal Amid Changing Forms" through at the Unitarian conference yesterday. Two American delegates have attended the conference, the Rev. S. M. Crothers of Boston, reading a paper. The full programme of the Methodist Ecumenical Conference shows that many representative American Methodists will be in London in September.

DELAREY'S DETERMINED ASSAULT. HEAVY LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES MARK A REAL BATTLE AT VLAKFONTEIN.

London, May 31.—Lord Kitchener reports to the War Office, under date of Pretoria, May 29, as follows: General Dixon's force at Vlakfontein was attacked yesterday by Delarey's forces, and there was severe fighting. The enemy was eventually driven off with heavy loss, leaving thirty-five dead. I regret that our casualties also were severe. The killed and wounded numbered 174. Four officers were killed.

THE CRAMP-VICKERS DEAL.

NEGOTIATIONS PERFECTED FOR PURCHASE OF STEEL PLANT—THE WHOLE SCHEME TO GO THROUGH.

Philadelphia, May 31.—It was declared among financial men to-day that the negotiations for the purchase of the controlling interest in the Bethlehem Steel Company, by the George E. Vickers Company, of England, have been successful and that the formal announcement now awaits only the perfection of a few details. In arriving at a satisfactory conclusion both sides made concessions—the Vickers interests not insisting on an extended extra period in which to examine into the affairs of the Bethlehem business. Whether or not the direct steel company purchase is a problem. The steel company holds a 999-year lease on the iron company's property, and the transfer of the former was taken to include the possession of the latter property. It may be, however, that the lease is not transferable, but in any event the negotiations are so far complete that the iron company stock, or a majority of it, is pledged to the new arrangement.

No one interested directly in the Bethlehem company would confirm or deny the report that the plan is a success. Joseph Wharton, the largest stockholder, has never called off negotiations, despite the statement of President Linderbaum to the effect that some Bethlehem stockholders had. The plan is now said to be so far advanced that a majority of the steel com-

pany stock is ready for delivery, and the syndicate in New-York which will underwrite the first purchase is ready to pay over the cash in all classes where the present stockholders do not desire to exchange for the new concern's stock. The general price to be paid is \$22.50 a share, the dividend of 50 cents a share, due to-morrow, is added to the old stockholders. The entrance of the Cramp shipbuilding concern into the plan will come immediately after the formal announcement of the completion of the Vickers-Bethlehem arrangement. There has been no friction in this end of the programme, and the Cramp stockholders are ready almost to a man to accept the new stock in lieu of cash.

PEACE IN N. P. ASSURED.

UNION PACIFIC'S CONTENTION ABOUT BURLINGTON PROBABLY THE BASIS.

The bitter controversy between the Harriman-Kuhn, Loeb and Morgan-Hill interests, which arose from the effort of the former party to acquire control of the Northern Pacific road in order to safeguard the position of the Union Pacific, imperilled by the purchase of the Burlington by the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern jointly and which culminated in the disastrous Northern Pacific corner and panic of May 9, has at length been composed, and what is declared to be a lasting peace has been declared. This development has not been unexpected by the Street, especially during the last few days. Union Pacific and Southern Pacific having shown notable strength; but its official announcement did not come until yesterday afternoon when the two news bureaus published the following statement:

An understanding has been reached between Northern Pacific and Union Pacific interests, under which the composition of the Northern Pacific board will be left in the hands of J. Pierpont Morgan, certain names having already been suggested, not now to be made public, which will especially be recognized as representative of the common interests.

It is asserted that complete and permanent harmony will result under the plan adopted, between all interests involved.

Jacob H. Schiff, of the firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., when seen at his office late in the afternoon, confirmed the accuracy of the above statement, but declined to discuss details of the settlement. James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway Company, sent out word from St. Paul that he had nothing to say for publication, except that a satisfactory settlement appeared to have been arrived at.

While the particulars of the agreement reached could not be given yesterday, it was assumed by the Street that the contention of the Union Pacific that recognition should be accorded that system in the operation of the Burlington by the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern had prevailed. It is decided to adopt a position to know the facts that while overtures for a settlement came from the Harriman party, those overtures were made solely in the interest of peace and harmony. It is significant also that the official statement telling of the settlement emanated from the Harriman side.

At the office of J. P. Morgan & Co. it was said yesterday afternoon that the date of Mr. Morgan's intended departure from Liverpool was not yet known.

RESIGNATIONS REFUSED.

GOVERNOR McSWEENEY ASKS SENATORS MCLAURIN AND TILLMAN TO RECONSIDER.

(By telegraph to the Tribune.)

Columbus, N. C., May 31.—Governor McSweeney made a play to-day that will be popular, but caused consternation among candidates. He refused to accept the resignations of the two United States Senators dramatically tendered in the public meeting at Gaffney last Saturday. Many say that the Governor's action is without effect, as, while he may urge Tilman and McLauren to withdraw their resignations, he cannot bar them from resigning. He is simply the custodian. The Governor writes to the Senators refusing their resignations, in order, as he says, "that you may have more time for serious consideration of the effects upon the people of this State of such action on your part." He continues:

It is possible you have taken this step hastily, without consideration of the consequences to the people who have signally honored you. The indications are that the campaign such as you would predict will be a very close one, and one of personal rather than a discussion of the issues. It would be a calamity to the State to be torn asunder by a heated canvass this year. The people are getting together and regarding the advancement of the Republic and the material prosperity of the commonwealth, and I should regret anything that would retard this progress.

The Governor, continuing, says he favors the fullest discussion of public questions and the education of the people along all political lines, but he believes this can be best accomplished without the bitterness and personalities that would be inseparable from a campaign during the coming summer. Under party rules there must be a campaign next year, when the issues can be properly discussed. He concludes as follows:

Holding these views, and looking to the interests of the people of this State, I respectfully decline to accept your resignations.

Senator McLauren, who was at home in Bennettsville, said the Governor's action left him at sea. The contemplation of resigning was new with him. He prized his honor as a man more than a seat in the Senate, and he had been jeered at and insulted. He added:

I will withdraw my resignation if Governor McSweeney has requested it, because I appreciate the friendly motives that inspire him and am willing to unite with him in shielding the people of this State from strife and bitterness. I have been rejected as the coming opportunity vindicates myself. I intend to speak on such invitations as I did at Gaffney, when possible, and will not consent to any further newspaper notoriety," he said, "as it is insulting to me and to the Governor's action. He declined to say anything to-night.

TILLMAN NON-COMMITTAL.

Charleston, S. C., May 31.—In reply to a telegram from "The News and Courier" asking for a statement, Senator Tillman telegraphed from Trenton:

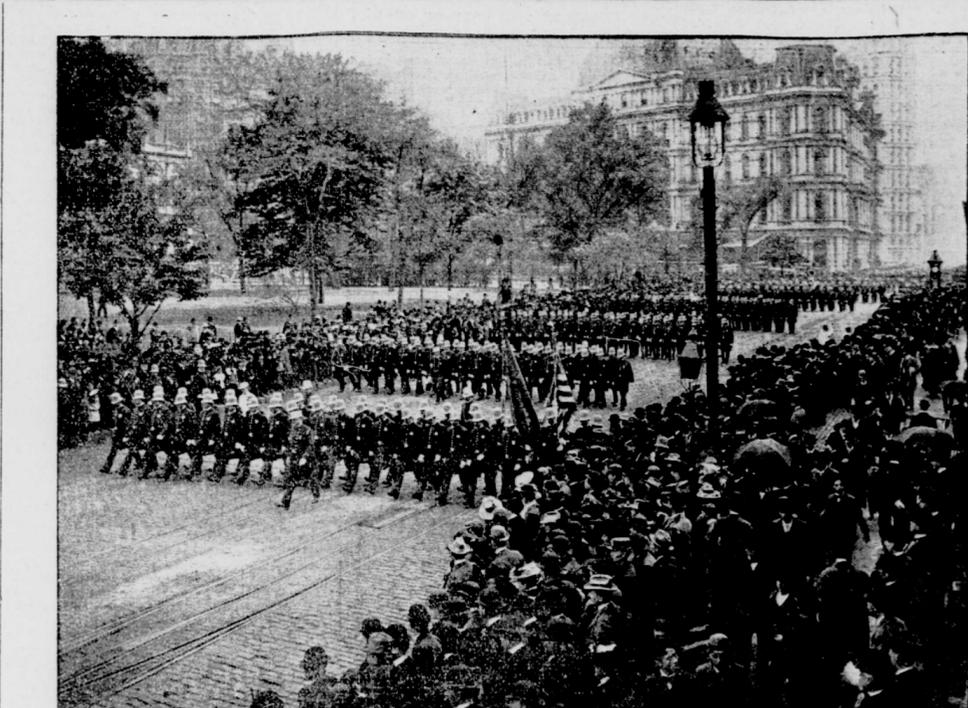
Have received no letter from Governor McSweeney, and therefore do not know what authority he acts. His power is purely ministerial, and his declination to accept my resignation is a legal standpoint. The Governor's function in such cases is simply to notify the President of the Senate on one hand and the Legislature on the other. My resignation exists. He can advise withdrawal of resignation, but nothing more.

TO ASSIST PRESIDENT OF STEEL TRUST.

JOSEPH E. SCHWAB WILL BE ASSOCIATED WITH HIS BROTHER, CHARLES SCHWAB.

Pittsburg, May 31 (Special).—Joseph E. Schwab, general superintendent of the Duquesne Steel Works, has resigned to accept the position of assistant to the president of the United States Steel Corporation, Charles F. Schwab, his brother, and will leave New-York on June 15. A. R. Hunt has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. Hunt is superintendent of the Homestead Plate Mills. He has followed behind Mr. Carey in his promotion, but outside the Carnegie plants he is an unknown man. Joseph E. Schwab entered the employ of the Carnegie Steel Company in 1885 as a draughtsman. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. He has filled many positions in all the Carnegie plants.

It is a famous doctor's prescription for Cold—JAYNE'S EXPECTORANT.—Adv.



THE POLICE PARADE PASSING THE CITY HALL.

CORTRIGHT LEADS PARADE.

POLICE FORCE MARCHES UP BROADWAY AMID BOTH CHEERS AND JIBES.

The annual police parade claimed the attention of thousands of people along Broadway yesterday afternoon, and it was remarked that for the first time there was a parade of the police without an active head to it. Senior Inspector Moses W. Cortright rode in the lead, but he was not in command of the force. It was noticed that he still wore the shield of deputy chief, although he had lost the title to that office. Inspectors Patrick H. McLaughlin, Elias P. Clayton and William W. McLaughlin, who were reduced in rank with Inspector Cortright under the new law, wore their gold shields, too, and followed him on horseback. Many who saw Cortright in the parade yesterday said that he is still an active man, but it is believed that he will soon retire on a pension.

The police wore their new summer helmets and dress uniforms, and got a wetting at the start. It rained when the parade started from the Battery Park at 1 p. m., but soon after the head of the column passed City Hall the sun shone again. The men marched in ten battalions, each battalion being led by an inspector on horseback. There was a military band for each battalion. The line of march was Broadway, Twenty-third-st., Madison-ave., Furey-st. and down Fifth-ave., past the reviewing stand, and the head of the parade arrived at the reviewing stand, at the Worth Monument, at 4:20 p. m.

The parade was reviewed by Mayor Van Wyck, Commissioner Murphy and Deputy Commissioners Devery and York. Devery was the subject of much comment among the bystanders. One said:

"Devery couldn't head the procession this time. Bet he's sore."

"Sure he's sore," was the reply, "now that the legislature got down on him, he's got to wear common day clothes like other people."

"Ain't so cheery now, either," remarked the first.

"No wonder," interrupted the other. "Suppose you got thrown down as Devery was today by the 'National Cop Association,' you wouldn't be cheery, would you?"

"I bet he's sore," again remarked the first spectator, who showed he had a disposition to get in the last word.

Immediately back of the second platoon of policemen a heterogeneous crowd of more than one hundred ragamuffins had fallen in. The rebuffs made no pretense of aping the dignity of the official paraders, but played all sorts of horse tricks, stumbling and tumbling over one another in utter confusion.

"There goes the Allen-st. cadets," shouted some one in the crowd that lined the street. Several of those in line looked in the direction from which the voice came, with expressions of curiosity, as if they had heard of "Allen-st. cadets" before.

The spectacle which attracted more attention than even the drum major of Humphrey's 7th Regiment Band, was the presentation of medals for bravery at the reviewing stand. The Rhineland Medal was presented to Patrolman Michael Kelly, the Isaac Bell medal to Roundsmen William J. Scoggin, and one was shouted: "There goes French Ball Thompson."

The inspector emphasized his disgust by not even turning his head.

LOOMIS TO HAVE A NEW POST.

MINISTER TO VENEZUELA WILL NOT RETURN TO CARACAS.

Washington, May 31.—It is officially admitted that Minister Loomis will not return to Venezuela. There are two reasons for this decision. In the first place, Mr. Loomis has suffered in health at his un congenial post, and, in the second place, the President is not disposed to expose him again to the merciless attacks he has suffered in Venezuela as a result of the execution of the orders of the State Department. Mr. Loomis, who is now in Europe, seeking to recuperate, will receive another diplomatic post as soon as a suitable place can be found. Meanwhile Mr. Russell will remain in charge of the United States Legation at Caracas for a period of time not yet determined upon.

WEEDING OUT IN N. Y. A. C.

THE DIRECTORS BEGIN A CAMPAIGN AGAINST A SMALL UNRULY ELEMENT.

The fact that the board of directors of the New-York Athletic Club is actively engaged in weeding out a certain unruly element in the organization, a small percentage of the total, became known yesterday by the news leaking out that two members who had been under suspension for unruly conduct had been reinstated. These two members, it was at first thought, belonged to the troublesome class, but further investigation did not furnish evidence to warrant such a supposition. The present board, since taking office last January, decided that stricter discipline should be enforced. The laws of the club give the directors wide powers to discipline members, and it was decided to put them into effect. The only cause for such action, it was said, was the presence in the club of a small number who often went too far in enjoying the privileges of membership.

As each member of the board has the right to suspend members pending the monthly meeting of the board, which may then support or cancel such action, a considerable number of the refractory element were suspended, both by the directors individually and by the board collectively.

In the carrying out of such a campaign two members were suspended as belonging to this small class by certain individual directors who thought they had sufficient proof. Within a week after their suspension, however, the members were heard before the board, and as the evidence, which was wholly circumstantial, was not deemed sufficient, the men were reinstated. The last action met the unanimous approval of the twenty-one directors.

The directors believe they have the whole of the rest of the club behind them. They say they are not going to stop until the unruly element is either eliminated or converted to the same observance of law and order that the rest maintain.

Although considerable dissatisfaction is heard from the younger set, the directors believe that at the next election, in January, their action will be sustained.

President Van Wormer refused to discuss the subject.

"This is a purely club matter," he said, "and I do not care to speak about it."

MR. NEWMAN TO ACCEPT.

WILL PROBABLY BE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL ON MONDAY.

President Newman of the Lake Shore Railroad, on his meeting with Mr. Vanderbilt last week, was persuaded to accept the presidency of the New-York Central Railroad. Some personal objections that made the presidency of the Central less attractive to him than his present position were overcome at that time, and it is probable that his selection to be the head of the Central, which position was offered him, as told in The Tribune, will be announced after the meeting of the directors of that road next Monday.

CAPTAIN KING FOUND GUILTY.

VERDICT AGAINST FORMER ARMY QUARTERMASTER AT MOBILE.

Mobile, Ala., May 31.—The sealed verdict in the bribery case against former Captain and Quartermaster Cyril W. King, U. S. A., returned Thursday night, was opened in the United States Circuit Court to-day. It finds him guilty, as charged, of receiving money with the intent to influence his official actions.

TWO VICTIMS OF DROWNING FLOOD.

Philadelphia, May 31.—The bodies of two of the seven young persons who were swept to death over Flat Rock dam, in the Schuylkill River, yesterday afternoon, were recovered to-day. They were those of Bertram Osman and Florence Denmore. The work of grappling for the bodies of the victims is handicapped by the swollen condition of the river.

NEW TRAIN TO BUFFALO AND CHICAGO.

On June 2nd the Lehigh Valley Railroad will put on a new fast daily train to Buffalo and Chicago. Leave New-York 10:40 a. m., arrive Buffalo 5:20 p. m., Chicago 11:30 a. m. Elegant new equipment, latest improvements in car building. New office 130 Broadway.—Adv.

CUBAN TERMS REJECTED.

ADMINISTRATION INSISTS ON AMENDMENT WITHOUT MODIFICATION.

Washington, May 31.—The administration has decided that the action of the Cuban Constitutional Convention in accepting the terms of the Platt amendment with modifications and interpretations of its own was not "substantial" compliance with the terms within the meaning of the amendment.

This decision was reached at the Cabinet meeting to-day. The meeting lasted over an hour and a half, and had been preceded by an hour's conference between the President and Senators Platt, of Connecticut, and Lodge, of Massachusetts. At the meeting Secretary Root took the position that the interpretations of the Platt amendment contained in the constitution adopted by the convention and the clause appended to it went outside of a fair interpretation of its meaning and were not acceptable. The Cabinet concurred in this view.

The measure of rejection sent to General Wood advises the Cubans in unqualified language that there is no power resting in the United States Government to change the terms of the Platt amendment, and that this government insists on the acceptance of the amendment without qualification. The Cuban convention is still in session, and the message of rejection will be delivered to it immediately.

The administration is confident that the Cubans will understand the attitude of this government and make a satisfactory acceptance within a reasonable period.

TO AWAIT CONVENTION'S ACTION.

When asked as to what would be the next step of the government after the Cuban convention had been informed of the rejection of its action one of the members said that the government could do nothing further until the convention acted again, and that as long as the conditions of the Platt amendment were on the statute books compliance with them must precede relinquishment of control over the island.

One of the most objectionable features of the Cuban interpretation is the addition of the words saying that the action of the United States is an amplification of the Monroe Doctrine. It is emphatically stated by some of those who have been present at the conferences that the Monroe Doctrine has nothing whatever to do with the present situation in Cuba. It is stated that the earnest desire of the President is to retire from Cuba at the earliest possible moment consistent with the best interests of the people of the island and the future relations between the new government and the United States.

The three main points, however, in which the action of the Cuban Constitutional Convention is regarded as unsatisfactory relate, it is said, to coaling stations, sanitation and intervention. The Cuban convention took from the coaling stations paragraph of the Platt amendment its obligatory character, and merely authorized the Cuban Government, in its judgment, to allow the United States to possess coaling or naval stations. The United States will insist on an absolute agreement to grant these coaling stations. With respect to sanitation the Cubans do not agree to carry out plans already devised, and in accepting the Platt amendment modify its provisions so as to change them considerably. In the matter of intervention the objection is that the Cubans have so changed this vitally important part of the Platt amendment as to make our right to intervene an ambiguous and doubtful matter, whereas this country insists on a straight, unequivocal acknowledgment of the right to intervene when, in this nation's judgment, intervention is necessary to assure Cuban independence or a stable government.

Senators Platt, of Connecticut; Lodge, of Massachusetts, and Fairbanks, of Indiana, had an hour's consultation with the President before the Cabinet meeting to-day. The President was desirous of obtaining the views of those Senators as to whether the action of the Constitutional Convention was "substantial" acquiescence in the Platt amendment.

PHILIPPINE QUESTION DEFERRED.

The Cabinet was unable to reach any conclusions as to the Philippine tariff situation, as affected by the recent insular decisions of the Supreme Court. Attorney-General Knox will make a careful examination of the language of the decisions at once and ascertain their exact bearing on the tariff between this country and the Philippines. He then will state to the President and his advisers the powers now vested in the government in dealing with this subject. There was little discussion of this matter, owing to the general lack of clear understanding as to the real effect of the decisions. Mr. Knox may report his conclusions on the subject at the next Cabinet meeting, and probably also will discuss the results of his examination of the opinions of the court with the President. Consideration of the question of an extra session was regarded as premature.

The only other important matter brought up at the session was a statement by Secretary Gage as to the finances of the government. The President and Cabinet had been away from the city for some weeks, and Secretary Gage took the opportunity to point out that the surplus in the Treasury is steadily mounting upward and that national financial conditions in general were very gratifying.

UNEASINESS IN HAVANA.

DISTURBED BY THE ADVICES FROM WASHINGTON.

NO LIKELIHOOD OF FURTHER CHANGES IN THE FORM OF ACCEPTANCE.

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Havana, May 31.—Washington advices regarding possible complications over the acceptance of the appendix to the constitution have caused some uneasiness among the members who secured its adoption, but the disposition is to await official information. Inquiry to-day showed that there is no probability that the convention would make further changes in the form in which acceptance was couched. Opinion is pronounced that such an attempt would disrupt the Conservative forces, which succeeded in having the Platt amendment interpreted and adopted, and would place the Radicals in full control of the situation.

Most of the delegates who voted for acceptance say that the subject is concluded, and the only thing left for the convention now is to frame an electoral law, or else to be dissolved by military authority and the status quo remain unchanged. They do not anticipate the latter alternative. Some of them criticize the reports that the convention was not expected to incorporate the substance of the interviews with Secretary Root, and say this criticism should have been formulated earlier, since such a purpose has been manifested by the convention since the return of the committee from Washington. Guaberto Gomez and other Radicals raised the same point that seems to have been raised by United States Senators. This was that, while the present national administration might feel bound by the terms of the interviews, as embodied in the appendix, future administrations or Congresses would not be bound. The reply of the Conservatives was that acceptance was only a means of preparing the way for the negotiation of a treaty with the United States which would insure defining the relations of Cuba on a permanent basis. This argument secured the majority.

The prospective withdrawal of the American troops is not looked on here as likely to become a serious question. Radical Cubans are quite temperate on that subject. The prevailing opinion is that the presence of the troops will not be questioned until the final steps in the formation of a Cuban government are completed. The conservative political elements and commercial influences, which were preparing to participate in the formation of a government, deprecate the bad effects of a hitch now, but, while uneasy at the prospect, they have full confidence in the Washington authorities and are not alarmed.

The municipal campaign closed to-night, and to-morrow the mayors and aldermen will be elected throughout the island. The chief feature of the Havana campaign has been the great reception given to Montoro and other old Autonomist leaders at a meeting of the Union Democratic party last night. It was larger than the rallies of either Nationals or Republicans. Montoro's fame was the magnet which drew the crowd, but Cuban politicians all admit the significance of his welcome. He spoke for Carlos Garcia, candidate for Mayor, but his speech went beyond local issues, and announced an aggressive policy of recognizing Cuba's relation to the United States.

The only place where the municipal contest has become serious is in Santiago. Word came to-day that various officials were resigning and that the other parties would go to the polls because the Nationals, under the leadership of Correo, a Radical anti-Platt delegate to the convention, were insisting that the presence of American soldiers was necessary to insure a peaceful election.

WHAT GENERAL WOOD SAYS.

Havana, May 31.—Senores Capote and Tamayo had a long conference with General Wood to-night. General Wood, in the course of a brief interview, said:

I never understood that the explanations of Secretary Root would be incorporated in the acceptance. I always considered that the convention regarded these explanations as explanations merely, and that they would not form a part of the acceptance.

DADY BID NOT FAVORED.

Havana, May 31.—Intimations unfavorable to the Dady bid for paving and sewerage Havana are given out. The amount is just under \$1,000,000, and it is stated that the engineering officers hesitate to assume responsibility for such a large sum, while Havana taxpayers are also opposed to it. No charge of collusive bidding is made, but the absence of competitive bids and the knowledge of large financial interests which expect a share in the contract has had an unfavorable effect. The possibility of readvertising is hinted. Mr. Dady insists that his bid is reasonable.

MRS. MCKINLEY'S CONDITION.

NO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER REPORTED IN PRESIDENT'S WIFE'S ILLNESS.

Washington, May 31.—Mrs. McKinley failed to show any improvement during the day, and to-night her condition is reported unchanged from the statements made in a bulletin issued this morning. One of the grave features of the case is the fact that she continues extremely weak and fails to gain strength. She is very seriously ill, but she has had severe attacks of illness heretofore, and this gives rise for hope that she will yet show improvement.

No bulletin was issued to-night, and none will be until after the consultation of the physicians to-morrow.

Both Drs. Sternberg and Rixey called at the White House this evening at separate times, the latter remaining with the patient for some time. The physicians after a consultation this forenoon issued the following statement:

Mrs. McKinley is recovering from the fatigue of the trip. The illness from which she was suffering in San Francisco still continues, though in less intense form. She is still feeble and cannot be considered out of danger. Her progress will not be doubted, but improvement is looked for.

P. M. RIXEY, M. D. GEORGE M. STERNBERG, M. D. W. W. JOHNSTON, M. D.

President McKinley told Senator Lodge to-day that he would not be able to keep any of the engagements made to visit Massachusetts this summer unless it be the one to attend the commencement exercises of Harvard on June 28, when a degree will be conferred upon him. This decision of the President is wholly due to the condition of Mrs. McKinley's health. Most of the engagements in Massachusetts were three or four weeks off, but the physicians have decided that Mrs. McKinley must have absolute quiet and rest this summer.

THE PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION.

Is now open. The New-York Central and West Shore will average a train every hour to Buffalo. Every one who is interested in American progress should see it.—Adv.