

Emilio Aguinaldo is a native of the Island of Luzon, and is only about thirty years of age. In 1897, he was at the head of an insurrection against the Spanish government in the Philippines. He and his associates were bought off, however, and Aguinaldo went to Hong Kong. Foreseeing the war between Spain and the United States, he went back in the spring of 1898, and headed another insurrection. After the destruction of the Spanish fleet by Admiral Dewey, and the taking of Manila, Aguinaldo proclaimed a Filipino republic, with himself as president or dictator; and six months later, made war upon the United States forces because his government was not recognized. His followers were soon scattered, but he has persistently maintained a guerilla warfare ever since. It remains to be seen whether the struggle for independence will cease with the loss of a leader who seems to have proved untrustworthy on more than one occasion.

The convention which met in Havana drew up a constitution for the government of Cuba as an independent republic, as it was requested to do by the United States authorities; but it failed to provide for future relations between the United States and Cuba. As this also was required of it, the Cubans find that the declaration of the United States congress at the outbreak of the war, "that the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free and independent," meant only independent of Spain. The United States congress now requires that Cuba shall never alienate any portion of its territory; shall not overcharge itself with debt; shall maintain a reasonable degree of law and order, and an adequate system of sanitation, or, failing in these conditions, allow the United States to intervene; and, further, that Cuba shall lease or sell coaling stations to the United States, and that the Isle of Pines shall not be included within its constitutional boundaries. This leaves the Cubans in some respects less of self-government than we have in Canada, while it gives them no rights of citizenship corresponding to our rights as British subjects.

The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York are now on their way to Australia, where they will be present at the opening of the first parliament of the Commonwealth.

From negotiations that are now going on, a satisfactory settlement of the Newfoundland French shore question is expected.

As was predicted, the British Government has declined to accept the amendments made by the United States senate in the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. This treaty, as negotiated between the two governments,

provided that the United States should have the right to construct, control and police the proposed canal across Central America; but that the canal should not be fortified, and should be open to the ships of all nations. The senate amendments, among other things, reserved to the United States the right to interfere with the canal in time of war, or apprehended danger. Other powers, not being bound by the treaty, could do as they wished in the matter; for the senate had struck out the clause inviting other nations to adhere to the convention. Great Britain alone would be absolutely precluded from taking any measures to secure her interests in or near the canal; and, as the British possessions in America are larger than those of the United States, this was manifestly unfair. By the failure of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, (which was in itself a concession to the wishes of the United States, though it did not go far enough to please the senate), the old Clayton-Bulwer treaty remains in force, and the two governments are mutually bound thereby not to acquire sovereign rights in Central American or to construct a canal across the isthmus except by joint action.

A diplomatic struggle over the Russian occupation of Manchuria seems to have ended for the present in the refusal of the Chinese government to agree to it. Manchuria, about 800 miles in length and 500 in width, lies between China and Mongolia on the west, and the Russian territory of Amur on the east and north, and is bounded on the south by Corea and the Yellow Sea. Though not a part of China proper, it has been attached to the Chinese empire since the middle of the seventeenth century of our era; or, more correctly, a Manchu dynasty and a ruling class composed chiefly of Manchus have governed China, as well as Manchuria, for the last two hundred and fifty years. By far the greater number of the present inhabitants of Manchuria are Chinese, and the Manchus are rapidly dying out before them. Moukden, the capital of the country, is a beautiful city of 300,000 people, in the latitude of Boston, Mass. Port Arthur, now held by Russia, is the extreme southern point of Manchuria, and the terminus of the Chinese Eastern Railway, a branch of the Trans-Siberian system. The country is very rich in minerals, and its acquisition would be of great advantage to Russia.

Overtures for peace in South Africa have proved unsuccessful. The Boer leaders have rejected the very generous terms offered, including representative government and the official use of their own language as well as English. Perhaps they already find they have made a blunder. Their scattered forces are being driven from place to place, and their supplies of stores and ammunition are falling into the hands of the British. Though the end is not yet in sight, the position of the Boers is decidedly worse than before the peace proposals. V.