

connection with the British invasion of Thibet (p. 25), an obstructive Thibetan force having been attacked by the British expedition near Gyantse at a point about 16,000 feet above sea level. The attack was made on the 6th, and the fight lasted two hours. The Thibetans were dislodged from their entrenchments with a loss of about 75, the British loss in killed being 5, including Captain Bethune, who led the attack. Subsequent reports indicate that the Thibetans are opposing greater resistance to the British advance.

The pacification of the Moros in the Philippines by the United States does not appear to have been as complete as announced (vol. vi, p. 808) by Gen. Wood two months ago. News dispatches of the 11th from Manila report that Lieut. Winfield Harper and 39 men of Company F of the Seventeenth United States infantry, were caught in ambush May 8, by several hundred Moros. Two American officers and 15 men were killed and 5 men were wounded. The ambush occurred at Simpatem, on the east shore of Lake Liguasan, Island of Mindanao.

Meagre reports of probable war between Brazil and Peru are at hand. The difficulty grows out of conflicting claims to parts of the so-called Acre country regarding which Brazil and Bolivia came near engaging in war some 15 months ago. The Acre country comprises 80,000 square miles. Its resources for rubber production are said to have been discovered by the celebrated mountain climber, Sir Martin Conway, an Englishman, who procured from Bolivia a grant of the land, with vast powers of government, in which American capitalists are now deeply interested. The region is described as lying far inland, 2,500 miles or more from the mouth of the Amazon, a wild section of South America, untraversed by any railroad, without telegraph lines, and a three weeks' journey by the uncertain river boats from Para. It is watered by three great tributaries of the Amazon—the Javary, Jurua and Purus—and their affluents, deriving its name from one of the latter, the river "Aquiry" or "Acre." It is bounded on the north and east by

the Brazilian states of Amazonas and Matto Grosso, on the south by Bolivia and on the west by Peru. When the original boundary treaty between Brazil and Bolivia was signed, in 1867, the population consisted entirely of nomadic and hostile Indians, and the dangers of exploration were augmented by the prevalence of fevers and reptiles and insects of the most deadly description. Not until the rubber industry at Manaos and Para became of value and the prospectors pushed westward into the wilderness to locate new lands suitable for this tree did the district receive special attention. It had been in undisputed possession of Brazil, and only in 1894 did Brazil and Bolivia realize the necessity for a more definite boundary line at this point. In 1895 a joint commission of those two governments agreed to adopt a provisional line, but disputes afterward arose, and in the winter of 1903 the rubber interests in the Acre country claimed by Bolivia rose in successful revolt against that country (vol. v, pp. 711, 712), following which Brazil sent an ultimatum giving notice to Bolivia that if she should attempt to re-occupy the disputed territory, Brazil would pacify and administer it by military force until a settlement of the whole dispute had been reached. Bolivia thereupon agreed to Brazilian military occupation and administration of all the disputed country to the west of the Yaco river, at the same time advising Brazil that she was sending to Rio Janeiro a minister specially authorized to negotiate a satisfactory agreement, or failing that to arrange for arbitration. No further reports of the difficulty between Brazil and Bolivia have been published in this country. But on the 3d came reports of rumors in Rio Janeiro to the effect that orders had been issued for concentration of all the Brazilian forces in the first military district at points on the frontier of Peru where Peruvian troops were reported to have crossed into the territory. These rumors were confirmed by dispatches of the 4th from Rio, which also stated that naval as well as military preparations were under way looking to war with Peru.

It seems that Peru had asserted

claims in the Acre country by occupying the Jurua and the Perus valleys with troops, and that Brazil had notified her to evacuate. No reply to this notice having been received, Brazil proceeded with her military and naval preparations. From Lima, Peru, also on the 4th, the Peruvian minister for foreign affairs was reported as saying that his government was preparing to resist the "unjust aggression" of Brazil. He was further reported as asserting that it is a political whim of Brazil's foreign minister to annex the territories of Alto Jurua and Alto Perus, inventing as a basis for such action stories of Peruvian invasions, and that Brazil had now sent troops to occupy the coveted region.

Five days later a dispatch from Manaos announced that an important battle had been fought between the Brazilian forces and the Peruvians near the river Chandles, and that the Peruvians were completely routed. It is said to be the general opinion, however, that there will not be a war, the Peruvian minister to Brazil having delivered a note proposing an examination of the property rights of both countries in the disputed Acre territory, without taking into account the actual occupation of the district.

In American politics there have been during the week six Republican State conventions. The Colorado convention on the 6th gave instructions for Roosevelt; that of New Jersey on the 10th endorsed his administration, but gave no instructions; those of Connecticut, Maryland and Alabama, on the 11th, endorsed but did not instruct; and that of Washington, also on the 11th, both endorsed and instructed.

The week's record of Democratic State conventions comprises those of Connecticut and Washington. In Connecticut the delegates were subjected to the unit rule and were instructed for Parker. This was done by a vote of 366 to 186, the minority being supporters of Hearst. In Washington on the 5th no instructions for anyone were made, but the unit rule was adopted and of the 10 national delegates

7 are reported to be strong Hearst men.

Some inferences regarding the approaching Presidential convention of the Democratic party may be drawn from dispatches of the 8th from St. Louis of the results of Democratic primaries with reference to the governorship of Missouri. They report that Joseph W. Folk, the circuit attorney of St. Louis, who has come into national prominence through his prosecutions of the local political ring and its "business man" confederates, has won his fight for the nomination. In the primaries of the 7th in eleven counties Mr. Folk is reported to have had sweeping victories in every precinct in every county save one, Lafayette county, which was carried by ex-Mayor James Reed, of Kansas City, by small majorities. Folk is now reported to have 286 uncontested delegates out of 356 necessary to nominate, while Reed has only 61. Harry B. Hawes had 111 votes, which he secured in St. Louis, but he has retired from the race. Judge James Gantt, of the Supreme Court, the only other candidate, has not a single delegate.

After a session of several days in Chicago (p. 72) the Socialist convention has adopted a national platform and nominated Presidential candidates. It is too long for complete quotation here, but we reproduce all the essential features:

We, the Socialist Party, in convention assembled, make our appeal to the American people as the defender and preserver of the idea of liberty and self-government, in which the nation was born. . . . To this idea of liberty the Republican and Democratic parties are equally false. . . . Our American institutions came into the world in the name of freedom. They have been seized upon by the capitalist class as the means of rooting out the idea of freedom from among the people. . . . By controlling all the sources of social revenue, the possessing class is able to silence what might be the voice of protest against the passing of liberty and the coming of tyranny. It completely controls the university and public school, the pulpit and the press, and the arts and literatures. . . . Our political institutions are also being used as the destroyers of that individual property upon which all liberty and opportunity

depend. The promise of economic independence to each man was one of the faiths upon which our institutions were founded. But, under the guise of defending private property, capitalism is using our political institutions to make it impossible for the vast majority of human beings ever to become possessors of private property in the means of life. Capitalism is the enemy and destroyer of essential private property. Its development is through the legalized confiscation of all that the labor of the working class produces, above its subsistence-wage. . . . Socialism comes to rescue the people from the fast increasing and successful assault of capitalism upon the liberty of the individual. As an American socialist party, we pledge our fidelity to the principles of international socialism, as embodied in the united thought and action of the socialists of all nations. . . . The tendency of the competitive wage system is to make labor's lowest condition the measure or rule of its universal condition. Industry and finance are no longer national but international, in both organization and results. . . . The socialist movement therefore is a world-movement. It knows of no conflicts of interest between the workers of one nation and the workers of another. . . . The socialist movement owes its birth and growth to that economic development or world-process which is rapidly separating a working or producing class from a possessing or capitalist class.

. . . . The fact that these two classes have not yet become fully conscious of their distinction from each other, the fact that the lines of division and interest may not yet be clearly drawn, does not change the fact of the class conflict. This class struggle is due to the private ownership of the means of employment, or the tools of production. Wherever and whenever man owned his own land and tools, and by them produced only the things which he used, economic independence was possible. But production, or the making of goods, has long ceased to be individual. The labor of scores, or even thousands, enters into almost every article produced. Production is now social or collective. . . . But this co-operation in production is not for the direct use of the things made by the workers who make them, but for the profit of the owners of the tools and means of production; and to this is due the present division of society into two classes. . . . A society based upon this class division carries in itself the seeds of its own destruction. Such a society is founded in fundamental injustice. There can be no possible basis for social peace, for individual freedom, for mental and moral harmony, except in the conscious and complete triumph of the working class as the only class that has the right or power to be. The socialist

program is not a theory imposed upon society for its acceptance or rejection. It is but the interpretation of what is, sooner or later, inevitable. . . . if the world is to be saved from chaos, from universal disorder and misery, it must be by the union of the workers of all nations in the socialist movement. The socialist party comes with the only proposition or program for intelligently and deliberately organizing the nation for the common good of all its citizens. . . . Socialism means that all those things upon which the people in common depend shall be by the people in common be owned and administered. It means that the tools of employment shall belong to their creators and users; that all production shall be for the direct use of the producers; that the making of goods for profit shall come to an end; that we shall all be workers together; and that all opportunities shall be open and equal to all men. To the end that the workers may seize every possible advantage that may strengthen them to gain complete control of the powers of government, and thereby the sooner establish the co-operative commonwealth, the Socialist party pledges itself to watch and work in both the economic and the political struggle for each successive immediate interest of the working class; for shortened days of labor and increases of wages; for the insurance of the workers against accident, sickness and lack of employment; for pensions for aged and exhausted workers; for the public ownership of the means of transportation, communication and exchange; for the graduated taxation of incomes, inheritances, franchises and land values, the proceeds to be applied to the public employment and improvement of the conditions of the workers; for the complete education of children, and their freedom from the workshop; for the equal suffrage of men and women; for the prevention of the use of the military against labor in the settlement of strikes; for the free administration of justice; for popular government, including initiative, referendum, proportional representation, equal suffrage and municipal home rule, and the recall of officers by their constituents; and for every gain or advantage for the workers that may be wrested from the capitalist system, and that may relieve the suffering and strengthen the hands of labor. We lay upon every man elected to any executive or legislative office the first duty of striving to procure whatever is for the workers' most immediate interest, and for whatever will lessen the economic and political powers of the capitalist, and increase the like powers of the worker. But, in so doing, we are using these remedial measures as means to the one great end of the co-operative commonwealth.

The chairman of the committee