THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

He Says the Extraordinary Session was Imperative

BEFORE FALL ELECTION IN 1900

As the People of the State Demanded Legislation Which Will be Effectual in Bringing About Equality of Taxation—Regrets the Expense Incurred.

The Message in Full.

"To the Senate and House of Representatives:

"You have been called together in special session by proclamation to consider the submission of an amendment, or amendments, to the constitution, which will permit the enactment of laws that will provide for the equal taxation of all property by the assessment of the same at its cash value.

"I meet the occasion an extraordinary one. The inequality of our system of taxation is so great and so unjust that immediate steps should be taken to remedy it.

"I regret the inconvenience and expense of a special session. But it is apparent that if the wishes of a very large majority of the people of the state are entitled to respect, a special session is imperative at some time prior to the fall election of 1900.

"This is so because the people have demanded legislation which will be effectual in bringing about equality of taxation. It has been clearly indicated by the supreme court of the state that such legislation cannot be enacted until the constitution is amended.

"Michigan's Relative Position in Other States.

	Assessed Valuations.	Miles.	Assessed Valuations based on values of other states.	Population.
Indiana	$183,693,566	6,292	$190,890,168	2,192,404
Minnesota	203,889,559	6,139	228,612,000	1,301,826
Ohio	627,585,219	9,213	785,967,886	3,672,315
Wisconsin	302,801,773	6,482	365,116,624	1,686,880

"The constitution cannot be amended until the amendment is submitted to the people at the next spring or autumn election.

"In order, therefore, that the legislature of 1901 may enact equal taxation laws it is necessary to call a special session of this legislature, at some time prior to the next spring, so as to provide for the submission of a constitutional amendment to the people at the general election held in fall.

"If no special session were called prior to the general election next fall, the duty of authorizing the submission of a constitutional amendment would devolve upon the legislature of 1901.

"In such case, equal taxation would not be enacted until the adjournment of 1902.

"It will be readily observed, therefore, that the calling of a special session at this time makes it possible to collect taxes on taxation law two years sooner than if this special session were not convened.

"It seems to me that the saving in taxes during three two years, by those who are now paying more than their just share, fully justifies the expense of the present special session which will be about two cents on each $1,000 in the state property.

"It is unnecessary for me in this message to discuss at length the existing inequalities of taxation, nor to point out the classes of corporations which escape the payment of their just proportion of taxes, nor the unfairness and inequality of the theory of specific taxation upon gross earnings as at present applied.

"This subject has been thoroughly and exhaustively debated by you already.

"The arguments and opinions which I have formed from time to time advanced are contained in my messages to the legislature of 1897, in regular session and in same legislature in special session in 1898, and to the legislature of 1899.

"There is nothing new in the recommendation that corporate property paying specific taxes should be taxed upon its cash value.

"In 1877 Gov. Bagley took occasion in his address to the senate and house of representatives to emphasize the inequalities of specific taxation of railroad property, which he contended should be taxed locally to its value like other property. In the same year Gov. Croswell recommended improved methods for uniformity in levying taxes. In 1887 Gov. Luce recommended the organization of taxation and in the next year he urged for the purpose of revenue a tax on bequests, on corporations, and an income tax. In 1891 Gov. Winans recommended the taxation as between classes of property paying specific taxes and property under assessment, claiming that the assessed property paid double the tax paid by property upon which specific taxes are levied. He favored the local taxation of corporate property and adopted the policy of exempting any property from equal taxation.

"The question is one, therefore, no longer for debate, but for energetic action as it has been under consideration for 22 years.

"You will recall that during the last session of your body the supreme court indicated that the Atkinson act was unconstitutional. Accordingly a joint resolution, providing for the submission to the people of an amendment to the constitution under which laws could be enacted taxing railroads and other corporations at true value instead of specifically upon gross earnings, was framed.

"This joint resolution passed the house receiving the necessary two-thirds vote, and was sent to the senate where it lingered fourteen days before the legislature ceased doing business.

"It was referred to the proper committee in the senate. Why it failed of passage in that body under the supreme court is a matter of conjecture. It is claimed that the amendment was an exceedingly important one and that there was not sufficient time, during the closing days of the session, to give it the careful consideration which its importance merited:

"Whatever may have been the motives of the members of the senate, the present special session affords them an opportunity to give to the subject matter of the resolution and amendment full and unprejudiced consideration.

"I am aware that there are members of both branches of the legislature who believe that corporations, now paying specific taxes upon earnings should not be taxed upon the same valuation of property. This belief may be due to differing causes. I believe, however, that if they will lay aside their personal convictions in the matter, and be guided by the expressed judgment of their constituents, the joint resolution will be passed by both house and senate.

"The campaign for taxation of railroad and other corporations based upon its value, and for equal taxation generally, has been continuously conducted for the past three years. By convention and party pledges, and by majorities the significance of which no one can dispute, the people of Michigan have plainly indicated their opinion and wish in the matter.

"By a plurality of 23,460 for governor in the fall of 1896, in a presidential campaign, and of 75,007 in the fall of 1898, the people declared, with an emphasis which cannot be mistaken, that taxes on earnings of railroad and certain other corporate property should be abolished, and all property taxed alike upon its actual cash value.

"The platform of the Republican party of 1898, to which nearly all of you owe your election, contained the following:

"'We commend the present state administration for its earnest efforts in favor of the equal and just taxation of the property of railroad companies. We favor the immediate repeal of the tax upon the gross earnings of railroad companies and favor a tax to be levied upon the true value of railroad, telegraph, telephone and express companies' property, the value to be determined by a state board. The taxes collected therefrom shall be paid into the primary school fund. We indorse the principles of the Atkinson bill and pledge the support of the Republican party thereto.'

"The issue during these campaigns was clearly defined. The question was thoroughly discussed and debated in speeches and in the press in every part of the state.

"The resolution at this session of the joint resolution for the submission to the people of the constitutional amendment would be tantamount to a direction that the secretary of state insert in the ballot the question of taxation, even after that ballot had been prepared. In other words, it would be equivalent to a confession that government of the people through their representatives is a failure.

"Taxing taxes upon value the same as all others.

"An actual appraisal of such property has never been made by public officials. Sufficient statistics, however, have been secured to show that the aggregate that such corporations are escaping taxation is large.

"The following is a table showing in the first column the number of miles of railroad in the states of Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin; in the second column the assessed value of railroad property in each of those states, which nearly represents Michigan in population and development; and in the third column the value at which Michigan's railroad property should be assessed if it were worth as much per mile as such property is in the states mentioned, and in the fourth column the population of each of these states:

"Indiana, 6,292 miles of railroad in Michigan, and the railroads now pay specific taxes upon a valuation of $1,939,775.65.

"The population of Michigan at the last census was 2,192,404.

"The average rate of taxation upon all property in the state, except that paying specific taxes, was 1.7 mills.

"If Michigan railroad property is worth as much per mile to assessed property, which Indiana (6,292 miles) is, it should be and if it were taxed upon such a basis of value it would be in Indiana, roads in this state would, [illegible] amounting to $3,873,877.35, [illegible] Minnesota basis of assessed value, 10,267 per mile) they would pay $6,[illegible] in taxes; from the Ohio basis (assessed value $99,836 per mile), $7,[illegible] in taxes, and upon the Wisconsin basis (assessed value $46,[illegible] per mile), $7,[illegible] in taxes.

"But even a substitute that such states have established, and granting that assessment upon actual cash value should result in the increase of taxation, yet in question of less taxes than they now pay, I would be the first to protest against the first one to protest against a return to specific taxes upon earnings, for the reason that it is the most burdensome and cost theory of taxation.

"In the heat of the contest for equal taxation I have been accused of an unreasonable desire to make corporations pay more than their just share.

"It is not 'equal taxation' to force the strongest corporation in the state to pay of taxes than the poorest individual upon the actual cash value of their property.

"Equal taxation is a matter of principle and there can be no advance or equity in taxing one class of property specifically upon its earnings and another class upon its value, when property belonging to both classes can be seen and appraised and assessed at the option of the state.

"You have been censured for increasing taxes by the appropriations passed at the last session. Without discussing the justice of such censure, it may be plain to you that railroads and other corporations paying specific taxes, pay no part of that increase. The state tax is based upon the assessed valuation of the state. As the burdens of supporting the government grow, they contribute nothing to the increased expense. For illustration railroads now pay no share of extra tax which may be necessary by the recent war.

"It is well for you to remember that there are only three states in the union in which railroads pay the taxes upon earnings. Respectfully submitted,

"H. S. PINGREE,

"Governor."

MISCELLANEOUS.

New Haven, Conn.—Dr. Oliver T. Osborne of the Yale medical school was arrested for alleged unlawful disinterment of the body of a colored girl. The doctor claimed he had permission from the mother of the girl to perform an autopsy.

Mount Union, Pa. — Mrs. Ezra Shoupe, near Saltillo, had a lively fight with a big buck, which she first wounded with a rifle and then dispatched with a knife.

Mishawaka, Ind.—At a general meeting of the Turnvereln of Northern Indiana district, action was taken favoring the Boers in their war with Great Britain and commending them for their effective warfare in the cause of liberty.

New York—Adelbert S. Hay, the newly appointed United States consul at Pretoria, sailed on the St. Louis.

St. Cloud, Minn.—The state reformatory was damaged to the extent of $35,000 by fire. The fire was confined to the boiler-house.

Huntington, W. Va. — Norfolk & Western passenger No. 3 ran into a siding at Panther, and Engineer W. S. Bishop of Huntington was killed and Fireman Koontz of Bluefield fatally injured.

Princeton, N. J.—A disastrous freight wreck, resulting in the death of Engineer Speigler and Fireman Henicker, occurred on the New York division of the Pennsylvania road near here.

Central Falls, R. I.—Mrs. Elizabeth Ipham Chase, who became prominent throughout the country in the anti-slavery agitation days on account of her work in behalf of the negro, is dead, aged 93 years.

St. Louis, Mo.—Lead and zinc have been discovered in the vicinity of Centaur, St. Louis county, about forty miles from this city. Two hundred acres have been purchased by a St. Louis company.

Lansing, Mich.—The grand jury examined a large number of papers and records bearing on the expenditures of the state military board.

Over 3,700 British Soldiers Made Prisoners

The following interesting data will show where and when the British were obliged to surrender in order to prevent annihilation at the hands of the Boers:

Oct. 20—The 18th Hussars pursued by a force of Boers after the battle of Talana Hill, Glencoe. Boers crept in behind them. They surrendered to escape annihilation.

Oct. 30—Gloucester regiment, Irish Fusiliers and 10th Mountain battery decoyed away from main army at Ladysmith by a feigned retreat of the Boers. Captured after heavy loss.

Nov. 25—Naval brigade with Methuen left as rear guard at Kaslin (Gras Pan) in position immediately by Boer guns. Cut to pieces. Loss 115. Saved from capture only by superb heroism.

Dec. 10—Gatacre walked blindly into Boer position at Stormberg. First intimation of danger a devastating fire from artillery and rifles. Incomplete report, heavy losses in killed and wounded, more than 600 missing.

Dec. 11—Gen. Methuen's forces repulsed at Magersfontein with a loss of 962, most of them being taken prisoners.

Dec. 15—Gen. Buller driven back while attempting to cross Tugela river, losing 11 guns and 1,097 men, 348 being taken prisoners.

The Boers report over 3,700 prisoners captured in less than three months of war.

Havana—Deaths, Santa Clara, Sergt. Charles A. Levanway, band, Second cavalry, heart failure, died 11th; Santiago, Andrew Pullar, civilian, died 16th yellow fever.

Pine Bluff, Ark.—At Jones, La., an organized mob hanged a negro to a telegraph pole. The negro had assaulted a white woman.

City of Mexico.—Santiago Morphy, who robbed the Bank of Mexico of $70,000, has been sentenced to nine years in prison.

New York.—Stephen P. Anderson, a wealthy architect and builder, committed suicide in his office in this city by shooting himself in the head.

Paris, Ky.—Clarence Williams, the negro who murdered his sweetheart, Josie Tillman, last spring, was hanged here.

IN OUR GREAT STATE.

THE HAPPENINGS IN MICHIGAN BRIEFLY RELATED.

The November Report of the Deaths in Our State Shows a Total of 2,350 —The Death Rate was 12.2 Per 1,000 Estimated Population.

Our State Robbed of $51,500.

Developments of a most startling nature have come out in connection with the grand jury's investigation of the affairs of the state military board, and indictments against at least seven if not 10 of the men most prominently identified with the work of equipping and sending Michigan's troops to the front, are sure to be returned.

The trouble with the legislative investigation last session seems to have been a failure to secure any positive evidence that any one man or party of men, in conclusion or otherwise, added to his or their earthly possession at the expense of the state as a whole, although there were many rumors that Michigan was milked right and left in the purchase of supplies and subsistence for its soldiers.

From the evidence now in hand it appears that on July 17 the military board held a meeting at which it was decided to split up a large part of the state stores, valued at thousands of dollars. A few days later a deal was fixed and the supplies, mostly clothing, were boxed and shipped to the Illinois Supply Co., at Chicago. There the goods were accepted for the name of the company by Addison C. Cobb, a former Kalamazoo man, who was then and is now a clerk at the Ocean Beach hotel. Without being unpacked, the goods were promptly reshipped to the Henderson, Ames Co., of Kalamazoo. That firm put the state for this big shipment by the Illinois Supply company, which is in reality the Henderson-Ames company, was $10,500.

The grand jury has found that at Kalamazoo the clothing was unpacked, the four-second lettering on the boxes changed, the original markers tags were cut off and Henderson-Ames tags sewed on. Then the goods were repacked and resold to the state by the Henderson-Ames people for $62,000, a cold divy of about $51,500 of which it is charged went into the pockets of the private individuals mixed up in the deal.

2,350 Deaths in November.

There were 2,350 deaths reported to the secretary of state for the month of November, or 78 less than the number for the preceding month. The death rate was 12.2 per 1,000 estimated population, as compared with 12.1 for October. There were 345 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 171 of children aged 1 to 5, and 651 of persons aged 65 and over. The age distribution was practically the same as in October. Important causes of death were as follows: Consumption, 140; other forms of tuberculosis, 50; typhoid fever, 66; diphtheria and croup, 63; scarlet fever, 18; measles, 22; whooping cough, 11; pneumonia, 157; diarrheal diseases of children, 77; cerebro-spinal meningitis, 32; cancer, 133; accidents and violence, 147. The number of deaths from diphtheria and croup was only twice more than for the month of October. No diseases showed any marked increase during the month except pneumonia, which increased from 139 to 157. Typhoid fever and diarrheal diseases of children declined to a considerable extent.

Wind Did Much Damage.

The wind storm in, Michigan on the 12th did considerably damage. At Farmington the south end of the Detroit & Northwestern electric railroad's power house was blown in, causing a loss of $2,000; a washout of 1,000 feet of the Duluth, Sauth Shore & Atlantic tracks near Mission, Keweenaw bay, and an engine and 10 loaded cars went into the bay; a large barn, the greatest damage done was the demolition of a steam derrick coal hoist at Miller & Son's coal dock, the loss reaching into the thousands of dollars; at Newaygo the north half of the new dam across the Muskegon river built for the Newaygo Portland Cement Co. at a cost of $26,000, went out; at Muskegon four of the six enormous smokestacks at the Champion Iron & Steel Co.'s plant were leveled, and it will take several weeks to repair the damage.

Washington's Memory Honored.

With solemn pomp and circumstance, with ceremonies beautiful, impressive, and appropriate, in the presence of a distinguished assemblage, and in the full splendor of ideal autumn weather, the centennial of the death of George Washington was commemorated on the 14th at Mount Vernon, Wash. During the ceremonies President McKinley paid a fitting tribute to the "father of our country."

Roscommon Cases up to the Governor.

The prosecution of the supervisors for corruptly and unlawfully issuing property in Roscommon county came to a finish on the 14th. The general opinion is that the prosecution failed to sustain the charges. The defense produced a preponderance of expert evidence which completely overwhelmed the prosecution. The evidence now goes to the governor.

The State Beekeepers' association will hold its annual meeting at Thompsonville, January 1 and 2.

Cadillac wants an opera house, and a project is now afoot to organize a stock company of local business men and citizens and build one.

The schools of Millington are closed on account of diphtheria. Four cases have already developed but as yet no deaths have ensued.

John Wahl's hay shed and grain elevator at Monroe, containing 200 tons of baled hay and 30,000 bushels of grain was destroyed by fire on the 13th.

Emma Smith, aged 22, of Detroit, was found on the street at an early hour on the 15th in a semi-unconscious condition. Physicians believe she was poisoned.

When South Haven started its campaign some weeks ago to secure the removal of the company from Paw Paw to the people of the latter place were inclined to give them the ha-ha. The South Havenites kept right on, however, and evidently have the Paw Paw crowd scared, as the latter have begun to hold public mass meetings to discuss ways and means to prevent a victory for the South Haven people.

Prominent Officials Asked to Resign.

One of the most sensational of the many sensations that have resulted from the calling of the grand jury at Lansing, to investigate alleged crooked dealing of state officials, cropped out in the evening of the 19th when Gov. Pingree asked for the resignations of Brig.-Gen. Henry H. White, of Grand Rapids, quartermaster-general; Brig.-Gen. Frank H. Case, of Three Rivers, adjutant-general; Brig.-Gen. Arthur F. Marsh, of Allegan, inspector-general, and Samuel N. Bickerstoff, a member of the board of trustees of the Michigan asylum for insane at Kalamazoo, and city salesman for the Henderson-Ames Co., of that city, who is alleged to have engineered the deal for the Illinois Supply company, which resulted in a steal from the state of many thousands of dollars while the state troops were being equipped for the Spanish-American war.

A Proposed Reform.

The Michigan State Poultry association which met in Detroit on the 19th adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, It being deemed that the only equitable way of buying and selling eggs is by weight instead of by count, it is hereby resolved, that the Michigan poultrymen hereafter use their best efforts to induce consumers of eggs to demand that eggs be sold by be it also resolved that we petition the state legislature at its next session to fix the standard of weight for a dozen eggs."

STATE GOSSIP.

Six inches of snow fell at Marshall on the 12th.

Thieves are operating in Wayne county near Westland.

Grand Rapids people will raise more than $2,000 for the Dan Rochester fund.

Lawrence will make a fight to obtain the county seat for Van Buren county.

The sugar beet plant recently mentioned in Bay City is to be erected at Kalamazoo by the Harvey Sugar company.

While drilling a well at Lowestah, Livingston county, oil was discovered. Indications of an excellent oil well are up.

A factory is to be established at South Frankfort for the manufacture of hardwood flooring and wooden specialties.

Marshall claims to have the only women embalmer and undertaker in the state outside of Detroit and Grand Rapids.

Portland's $30,000 [illegible] of water works bonds has been sold to a Cleveland firm at par. They bear 4 per cent interest.

The schools and churches at Carland, Shiawassee county, have been closed for two weeks on account of an epidemic of diphtheria in the village.

The Gladwin County Farmers' institute has been awarded the prize by the state institute officers for second in attendance at the last county institute.

Gratiot county farmers who raised sugar beets the past season are well satisfied with the returns, and the average next year will be a great deal larger than last.

Burglars entered the furniture store of C. E. Godfrey, at Bancroft, on the night of the 13th. Five revolver shots, taking valuable papers to the value of $6,000. No clue.

Ludington has had a long and tedious fight for municipal ownership of the water works plant, and the deal was finally closed by the council on the 12th. The price paid was $110,000.

A party of capitalists from Saginaw with local men have formed a company to drill test holes for coal five miles northeast of Millington. They believe they will find a three-foot vein.

Alex. Simpson, of Wyandotte, is not what would be called a handsome man, but he has two wives according to the verdict of the jury. He is now awaiting his sentence on the charge of bigamy.

Three stories of a four-story brick building on Woodbridge street, Detroit, which had been weakened by a recent fire in an adjoining building, collapsed on the 12th. Only one person was injured, but he probably fatally.

Internal Revenue Collector Charles Wright and several other government officials visited Port Huron on the occasion of oleomargarine at the Union depot, Detroit, a few days ago. The goods were consigned to parties in Liverpool, Eng., from Chicago.

The proposed electric railroad from Allegan to the lake shore seems to be a sure thing. The necessary franchises have all been secured except one, through the village of Fennville, and the council at that place now has the matter under consideration.

Coleman has lost one of her industries through the failure of the timber supply in the vicinity. The hoop mill which has in the past furnished employment for a number of the young people is being torn down preparatory to its removal to Ohio. The land on which formerly stood the timber which the mill has used up, however, is now settled and tilled by hundreds of farmers, so what Coleman loses in one way she makes up in another.

The following appointments of postmasters in Michigan have been confirmed by the senate: C. H. Baird, Holly; R. F. Browne, Harbor Beach; W. C. Brown, Brighton; E. Burkhart, Sulinac; A. Cline, West Branch; H. B. Colman, Kalamazoo; E. F. Evarts, Chesaning; W. McGillivray, Otsoda; C. Quick, Lowell; G. Van Schelven, Holland; L. A. Sherman, Port Huron; G. Wever, Marlette; W. E. Holt, Bellevue; Gordon Beach, Galesburg; A. K. Dougherty, Elk Rapids.

McBain is going to experiment with gasoline lamps as an illuminating agency for the streets.

An official London report gives the total number of killed, wounded and missing of all arms in the engagements of the 10th and 11th, north of Modder river at 832. There were 15 officers killed and four wounded, and in addition five are missing and one is known to have been made prisoner.

The London war office has received a message stating there were 650 casualties among the non-commissioned officers and men of the Highland brigade to Saturday night. The brigade lost 10 officers killed, 38 wounded and four missing.

SPECIAL SESSION DOINGS.

The extraordinary session of the legislature convened on the morning of the 18th. There were no railroad lobbyists present on the opening day and little time was lost in settling down to business. There were the usual relaxing exercises in the opening of both houses, and at noon Lieut.-Gov. Robinson merely told the senate that the governor's call would tell them why they were there. In the house Speaker Adams made a formal address when the house convened in the afternoon. Rep. Burch, of Detroit, offered a resolution instructing the clerk of the house to notify the prosecuting attorney of Ingham county and the members of the grand jury now in session in that county, that the members of the house waive all claims of privilege in the service of any process that might issue from the said grand jury. The resolution was adopted without a dissenting vote. After the reading of the governor's message by himself, a joint resolution was introduced by Rep. Wayne, of Midland, under which it is proposed to amend the constitution so as to compel railroads and other corporations to pay ad valorem taxes upon their property. The resolution was immediately referred to the house committee on judiciary, and that body tackled it shortly after adjournment of the house. A special matter that the governor asked the legislature to act on is a proposition to increase the pay of the house in Grand Rapids. For this purpose $2,000 is asked. Another matter that may come up is an appropriation of $5,000 needed for the upper peninsula normal school; the new institution having been neglected.

[illegible] passed the bills straightening out the tangle in the soldiers' home and Marquette normal school appropriation bills on the 19th. There was no opposition, as neither bill increased appropriation, simply making the appropriation of the last legislature available for the purpose for which it was intended. These bills have passed both houses, and will go to the governor as soon as presented to the governor and signed by him.

The house judiciary committee could not agree on the Wayne county bill to abolish the office of sheriff, and adopt provisions of the constitution. Scully, Foster, Hunt and Cleveland voted for a motion to report it favorably, while Davis, McCallum, Kerr and Handy voted no. A motion to report it without any recommendation was supported by all of the committee except Scully, who refrained from voting.

TRANSVAAL WAR ITEMS.

The British government has at last consented to mobilize a force which Gen. Buller is credited with having demanded of all along as essential of success in South Africa namely 10,000 general cavalry and mounted infantry. On the 9th the war office issued an order to the effect that the government had decided to raise for South Africa a mounted infantry force, to be called Imperial Yeomanry, and to be recruited from yeomanry, volunteers and civilians, preference being given to the latter. Enlistment will be for one year or during the continuance of the war. The men must be between 20 and 35 years of age and of equal physique to the ordinary cavalry soldier. Officers are to be required to provide their own horses and to be allowed to wear cloth shooting jackets, not necessarily uniform, felt hats, breeches and gaiters. All must be good riders and marksmen.

Gen. Buller of the British army met with a serious reverse while attempting to cross the Tugela river in Natal on the 15th, losing 11 guns. The number of killed and wounded is not given, but the general fears the losses were severe. The Boers followed their usual custom of appearing in cheap cloth and opened a heavy fire at close range on the advancing British forces, compelling them to withdraw and leave their artillery behind.

A dispatch from Gen. Methuen dated Dec. 12 gives a brief account of another engagement at Modder river in which the British were repulsed with heavy losses heavy loss. The engagement was commenced on the 10th and ended on the following day. Gen. Methuen does not attempt to estimate his loss, but simply says: "Our loss was great." All London was staggered by the news of Gen. Methuen's defeat.

There are current rumors in high circles that Lord Salisbury, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and other members of the cabinet are now angry with Mr. Chamberlain for not warning them of the magnitude of what was before the government.

Gen. Gatacre has issued a proclamation forbidding all persons living on farms to move about the district or to visit Sterkstrom except on Saturdays, and then only with passes, under pain of summary arrest.

The subscription started in the British colony in the city of Mexico in behalf of the widows and orphans of British soldiers killed in the war with the Transvaal has already reached $2,500.

Gen. Lord Roberts will supersede Gen. Buller in handling the British forces in South Africa. Gen. Kitchener will also go to South Africa as chief of staff to Lord Roberts.

The bodies of two of the guides who mislead Gen. Gatacre at Stormberg were found on the battlefield. The men had been shot.

The imperial government has accepted the offer of the Dominion government to send a second contingent to the Transvaal.

An Australian mounted contingent of 1,000 men will sail for South Africa before Jan. 10.

Another Indian force will be sent to Great Britain's aid in South Africa.

One saloonkeeper in Manila has a weekly consumptive demand for eight car loads of American beer per week.

The British and American ministers at The Hague have asked permission to retire to Antwerp with a view of avoiding personal unpleasantness owing the anti-English attitude of the Dutch.

Robert O'Grady, supposedly dead and buried in a Chicago cemetery and paid for by an insurance company, is alive and at present an inmate of the National Soldiers' home in Milwaukee.

By the burning of a house at Green Brier, Ark., a mother and two small children were cremated on the 19th. Geo. Roberts, the father, was away from home at the time.

NEWSY GENERALITIES

ITEMS GATHERED FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.

By the New Samoan Treaty the United States Renounces Her Claim to the Islands of Upolu and Savaii of the Samoan Group in Favor of Germany.

The Samoan Treaty.

The full text of the treaty negotiated between the United States, Germany and Great Britain for the adjustment of the questions between the three governments, in respect to the Samoan islands, has been made public. The treaty was made at Washington, Dec. 2, 1899, and after reciting its purpose to be to adjust amicably questions between the three powers in respect to the Samoan group, and to avoid future misunderstandings, proceeds to annul all other treaties, conventions and agreements relating to Samoa. Germany renounces all rights and claim over the island of Tutuilla in favor of the United States. Great Britain also does the same.

Declaring that the United States of America renounce in favor of Germany all their rights and claims over and in respect to the islands of Upolu and Savaii, and all other islands of the Samoan group west of longitude 171 degrees west of Greenwich. The three powers are to continue to enjoy in respect to their commerce and commercial vessels in all the islands of the Samoan group, privileges and conditions equal to those enjoyed by the sovereign power in all ports which may be open to the commerce of any of them. A separate treaty was negotiated to cover the provisions for the settlement of claims in Samoa.

Boer Will Protest.

The Government of Brazil will officially protest against the award of the arbitration tribunal at Paris of part of the frontier between the Oyiapoc and Takutu rivers, which territory, it is said, belongs to Brazil and was notincluded in the protocol signed by the arbitral tribunal which arbitrated the British-Venezuelan questions.

Philadelphia Gets the Convention.

The Republican national convention will be held at Philadelphia on Tuesday, June 19 next. The place and date were decided upon by the national Republican committee on the 15th after a friendly contest for the honor of entertaining the convention between the city selected, Chicago, St. Louis and New York.

WAR NOTES.

Maj.-Gen. Henry W. Lawton was killed at San Mateo on the 18th. The news came from Manila on the evening of the 29th and 27th infantries left Manila on the above date for the purpose of capturing the town of San Mateo, with its rebel garrison of 300. On the same day of his death, not thinking the brave general to be dead, the President had nominated the war department to prepare Gen. Lawton's commission as a brigadier general in the regular army to fill one of the existing vacancies. Gen. Lawton was a hero of three wars, was known as a good fighter and a soldier of experience. He was born in Toledo, O., and was appointed to the army from Indiana. He was unmarried. Ex-President Harrison in commenting on the death of Gen. Lawton says he believes it at the general's death was the result of treachery.

For some months it has been suspected that large quantities of military stores were in the possession of Cubans at some point in the interior. On the 13th the mayor of Tunis, a small town in the district of Holguin, voluntarily disclosed the location and surrendered of three effective field guns, 10,000 rifles and a large amount of ammunition to the Americans. The guns had been stored in an obscure place, in a rough country under palm leaf blinds. It would have been almost impossible to find them unless their whereabouts had been disclosed. The town of Tunis, Holguin district is one of the wildest in the island, and has been regarded as a probable starting point for a possible uprising.

The latest from Gen. March is to the effect that Aguinaldo has disguised himself, abandoned his troops and is hiding in the province of Benguet. He also adds that he destroyed Aguinaldo's bodyguard; killed Gen. Pilar; received the surrender of Gen. Concepcion and staff; killed and wounded 52 insurgents; released 575 Spanish prisoners and captured considerable property. His loss was two killed and nine wounded.

Gen. Young reports that he believes the American prisoners, including Lieut. Gilmore, are now in the hands of the United States troops. Lieut. Col. House and Maj. Hunter have been operating with small detachments in North Ilocus province, and it is supposed that one of these has effected the release of the Americans.

Gen. Grant recently discovered hidden in Subig bay a steamer, the Don Francisco, of 180 tons, fully equipped and coaled. She is supposed to be the vessel Aguinaldo was keeping ready for his escape.

Maj.-Gen. Leonard Wood, U. S. V., was on the 13th assigned to the command of the division of Cuba, relieving Maj.-Gen. John R. Brooke. U. S. A. Maj.-Gen. Wood will, in addition to his duties as division commander, exercise the authority of military governor of the island.

A force of insurgents estimated at 800, attacked the American garrison of 290 at Vigan, province of South Ilocos. The American loss was eight killed and many wounded. After very hard fighting the Filipinos were driven off and through the mountains, leaving 35 dead.

The transports Hancock and City of Puebla, with the 44th and a portion of the 43d infantry, arrived at Manila on the 19th.

Capt. Geo. W. Melville has been nominated by the President to be engineer in chief and chief of the bureau of steam engineering in the department of the navy with rank of rear admiral.

The news of the appointment of Maj.-Gen. Wood as governor of Cuba, was received at Santiago with enthusiasm. Even the most bitter Cuban national agree in praising him as a soldier and an administrator.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTES.

Speaker Henderson on the 18th announced the chairmen of the various committees. The Michigan congressman were mostly all given good places on the committees as is shown by the following list:

Corliss—Election of president, vice chairman; interstate and foreign commerce; Patents.

Hill—Ways and Means; Railways and canals, pensions; accounts; enrolled bills.

Gardner—Education, militia, alcoholic liquor traffic.

Hamilton—Rules, rooms No. 1, territories, entitlation, and acoustics; enrolled bills.

(W. A. Smith—Foreign affairs, Pacific railroads, expenditures in state department, chairman.

S. W. Smith—Invalid pensions, District of Columbia.

Weeks—Elections No. 3, pensions.

Fordney—Merchant marine and fisheries, expenditures in treasury department, chairman.

Bishop—Rivers and harbors, private land claims.

Cramp—Railways and canals, mines and mining—chairman.

Meekison—Elections No. 3—chairman, war claims.

Shelden—Indian affairs, mines and mining, pensions.

Rep. De Armond, of Missouri, introduced the following, the 17th in resolution declaring the purpose of the United States in the Philippines." It declares that under the constitution the federal government has no power to rule over colonial dependencies; that the expansion of our commerce cannot be depended upon a policy of imperialism involving subjugation and annexation of Asiatic colonies and that "we are opposed to the retention of the Philippines and that it is our purpose to consent to their independence as soon as stable governments shall be established by them and toward the prompt establishment of such a government we pledge our friendly assistance."

The following list of consuls were confirmed by the senate on the 14th: Adelbert S. Hay, of New Hampshire, at Pretoria; C. Q. Tyler, of Illinois, at Cairo; Berlin, Poy, of New York; Torquette, E. L. Hall, of Massachusetts, at Tarsus; H. W. Bush, of New York, at Niagara Falls, Canada; J. Harmony, of New York, at Cordova, Spain; F. D. Pierce, of Connecticut, at Amsterdam; J. H. Carroll, of Maryland, at Cadiz; H. C. Morris, of Michigan, at Windsor, Out.; Jay White, of Michigan, at Hanover, Germany; J. H. Johnson, of Texas, at Coatlesok, Canada; L. H. Washington, of Texas, at Valencia, Spain.

The following appointments were confirmed by the senate on the 14th: To be United States ministers—Wm. P. Lord, of Oregon, to the Argentine Republic; Herbert W. Bowen, of New York, to Peru; Arthur S. Hardy, of New Jersey, to Greece, Roumania and Servia; Lawrence Townsend, of Pennsylvania, to Belgium; Bellamy Storer, of Ohio, to Spain; John M. Irwin, of Iowa, to Portugal.

Secretary Gage has called the attention of congress to the lack of facilities in our mints and assay offices and the dependencies for the safekeeping of large sums of money required for current expenses of the army and navy. He recommends that authority be given him to designate one or more banks or bankers in each of our islands as depositors of public moneys.

A handsome pipestone gavel was sent to Congressman McCleary on the 13th to be presented to Speaker Henderson. The head is a solid piece of pipestone and the handle is decorated with gold. The initial letters "D. B. H." are found on the steel in solid gold.

Rep. Williams on the 14th introduced a resolution that the independence of the Filipinos should be recognized and that the United States land and sea forces should be withdrawn from the islands.

Masked robbers boarded a passenger train at Kansas city, Kas., on the 19th, and when the train had proceeded a short distance they began the work of holding up the passengers. They secured five gold watches and about $100 in money and made their escape. No shots were exchanged.

THE MARKETS.

New York	Cattle	Sheep	Lambs
Best grades	$4 60@5 00	$4 75	$5 40
Lower grades	3 75@4 50	2 50	5 00
Chicago			
Best grades	5 40@5 80	4 15	5 75
Lower grades	4 30@5 25	4 00	4 90
Detroit			
Best grades	3 75@4 25	4 25	5 00
Lower grades	2 50@3 75	3 75	4 00
Buffalo			
Best grades	4 00@5 00	4 50	6 50
Lower grades	2 25@3 60	3 75	5 40
Cincinnati			
Best grades	3 25@3 75	4 25	5 25
Lower grades	4 10@4 60	3 60	5 00
Pittsburg			
Best grades	5 50@5 75	4 30	5 40
Lower grades	4 40@4 70	2 90	5 20

GRAIN, ETC.

	Wheat. No. 2 red	Corn. No. 2 mix	Oats. No. 2 white
New York	73@73½	45@45½	30@30¼
Chicago	[illegible]	33@33¼	24@24½
***Detroit**	70@70¾	33@33¼	26@27
Toledo	69@69	33@33¼	24@24
Cincinnati	70@70¾	33@33¼	26@26¼
Pittsburg	73@73¼	36@35¼	29@29
Buffalo	71@71¼	34@34¼	29@29

*Detroit—Hay, No. 1 Timothy, $11 50 per ton. Feed—Per cwt, $5 50 per ton. Poultry, spring chickens, 7½c per lb; fowls, 6c½; turkeys, 8c; ducks, 8c; geese, 7c. Potatoes, 35 per bush. Butter, best dairy, 21c per lb; creamery, 26c.

The estimated crop of cotton is 8,900,000 bales.

A marvelous quartz find is reported from Dawson. Assays run as high as $800 a ton, it is said, and the ledge is a mile in width.

Reports of the season's sugar crop in the Hawaiian islands gives the total product as 282,807 tons, which is one of the largest in years.

An advance of a full 25 per cent in the price of stoves and ranges has been decided on by the Association of Stove Manufacturers. The advance will take effect Jan. 1.

Commissioner Wilson of the internal revenue bureau has decided that he will not redeem at the beginning of the new year imprinted checks because there may be printed or engraved in the date line the figures "1899" or "189—." Holders of these checks will be expected to exhaust their supply, write in the figures "1900" or stand the loss.

The condition of Dwight L. Moody, the evangelist, is causing much anxiety. His lower extremities are swelling, and albuminuria has appeared.

Erie Pa., suffered a $63,000 fire loss in the business portion on the 17th.