



NATIONAL.

On March 18, by a vote of 35 to 16, the Senate in executive session confirmed Gen. Leonard Wood as major-general, thereby giving him the rank from Aug. 8, 1903, the day President Roosevelt made the promotion. The contest against his confirmation has been a notable one, beginning Nov. 19, 1903, soon after Congress convened in special session, and continuing through the present session until to-day.

The confirmation by the Senate of Wood's nomination was not unexpected. The testimony before the committee, particularly that of Gen. John R. Brooke, did not seem to the members really damaging. And there has been no question for weeks as to the result, except how soon it might be expected. Senator Hanna's illness and death deprived the opposition of its most formidable leader.

Dependent upon the confirmation of General Wood were 167 promotions for other army officers. Those have been held up since their nominations were made by the President, but now will be confirmed without opposition.

The Dietrich inquiry, made at the Nebraska Senator's own request, by a select committee of the Senate, has practically collapsed. The charge that he sold a post-office appointment has not been sustained.

The War Department's Fortification Board has finally turned down the Langley flying machine. Professor Langley some time ago formally applied to the War Department for an additional allotment from its military experimental fund to enable him to continue his investigations in mechanical flight, and the request was taken under serious consideration.

FOREIGN.

No big battle between Russia and Japan has yet taken place, and the situation in Northern Korea remains unchanged. Viceroy Alexieff confirms the report that the Japanese occupy the line of the Cheng-Cheng River, seventy-five miles north of Ping-yang, and admits that the Russian and Japanese outposts are in close touch there. It is still unlikely, however, that there will be any serious fighting south of the Yalu. Japan continues to pour troops into Korea, the point of debarkation now being Ping-yang inlet. This saves the hundred-mile march from Chemulpo or Seoul.

The Russian minister at Peking is said to have warned China that she must withdraw her troops within the Great Wall or be considered to have violated her neutrality, in which case Russia would act for the protection of her interests by force; the Government is reported to have refused to take its forces from the region west of the Liao River, which Russia professes to regard as neutral and exempt from entrance by the Japanese, in spite of the fact that it lies within the boundaries of Manchuria.

A clever trap was set for the Balfour ministry in the House of Commons last week and was successfully sprung by the Irish Nationalists. The Government was caught napping and was defeated by 141 to 130 votes on a motion for the reduction of the Irish education estimates; but since it was in the nature of a "snap" division, the Government refused to resign.

General Manning lately succeeded in surprising the Mad Mullah's adherents, killing 150 of them and capturing 3,000 camels.

GENERAL.

Daniel J. Sully, the famous cotton speculator, who has been so prominent in the cotton movement during the last three months, has failed.

The British submarine boat *A1* was run down by a steamer, and sank with all on board. She was of a new design, superseding the Holland type. The boat was found at the bottom in diving trim. Everything was battened down, and apparently no breach had been made in the hull. It is assumed that the boat was turned over by the *Berwick Castle*, and that this upset the gasoline tanks, the fumes from which suffocated the crew.