

whether the proceeding must begin in the lower courts and be carried to the supreme court for review, or might be brought originally in the supreme court. A hearing on the merits may be expected at an early day.

MISCELLANY

THEN AND NOW.

For The Public.

When Freedom flung her starry banner out,
When its folds were first unfurled,
And her glorious battle shout
Went ringing through the world,

Proclaiming to the Nations of the Earth
The equality of men,
Manhood's measure honest worth,
What thought our fathers then?

That Liberty is but a battle cry?
Nothing but a sounding word
To lead men on to dare and die,
And cheat the common herd?

They fought; they won; they died and
passed away;
And we now their praises sing,
The while we cringe beneath the sway
Of vulgar bourgeois king;

The King that takes the poor man's house
and land,
Cunning Greed, the king of spoil,
Who robs the weak with ruthless hand,
And plucks the fruit of toll.

And now, though grandly rolls the juggernaut,
Concentrated wealth and power,
Manhood, manhood is forgot,
And men do crouch and cower;

We pluck the flowers that bloom above
the graves
Of the patriotic dead,
Strew the paths of sordid knaves,
And earn the price of bread.

For selfish, cunning Greed is in command;
Honor now is bought and sold;
And Justice too holds out her hand
To clasp her tip of gold.

ATRABILARIUS.

THE MAN FOR THIS HOUR.

I confess that I dream of the day when an English statesman shall arise with a heart too large for England, having courage, in the face of his countrymen, to assert of some suggested policy: "This is good for your trade; this is necessary for your domination, but it will vex a people hard by, it will hurt a people farther off; it will profit nothing to the general humanity; therefore, away with it! It is not for you or me." When a British minister dares to speak so, and when a British public applauds him speaking, then shall the nation be so glorious that her praise, instead of exploding from within, from loud, civic mouths, shall come to her from without, as all worthy praise must, from the alliances she has fostered, and from the populations she has saved!—Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

BOERS-FILIPINOS.

The wars of subjugation carried on by England in South Africa and by the United States in the Philippines do not come to an end. It is a great army England has in the field and that employed by the United States is not small, yet resistance continues. The English people are growing restless at the expense and loss of life. The American people seem largely indifferent. Americans, however, do point the finger of reproach at England. It may be the English feel that we are subject to reproach.

How absolutely unnecessary both wars have been from the beginning! As between the two, ours doubtless is the less defensible. England had many people in the South African republic, and they had some grievances. We had no people at all in the Philippines and no grievances there. We made a war of conquest pure and simple, that only, and without the fear of God or man before us. Grievance or no grievance, can it be truly said that England is not in the same predicament?

We are two great peoples. We stand in the van of human progress. We, the people of the United States, are proud with reason of our freedom and of our institutions. The people of England have occasion for pride in their freedom and institutions. Yet the world does not today present the like spectacle elsewhere. Those countries which vaunt their virtues less seem more considerate of the weaker people than are we. Those peoples whose Christianity we hold in doubt seem to live up to a higher standard.

How long is the disgrace of Christian England in South Africa and the disgrace of Christian America in the Philippines to continue? Is there never to be an awakening to the enormity of the situation?

"A war of conquest is criminal aggression." — Editorial in Monthly Bulletin of the Fidelity and Casualty Company of New York.

WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH AN ACRE OF GOOD LAND.

In a tour of the Sacramento valley the writer was shown over a number of famous large estates, ranging from 5,000 to 100,000 acres, but the estate which struck him as altogether the most interesting and hopeful of all he saw in that splendid valley consisted of just one acre. This is the irrigated "farm" of Mr. Samuel Cleeks at Orland, Glenn county.

In the Sacramento valley irrigation is not fashionable, though nature has favored it with a wonderful water supply. For a generation farmers have raised wheat by dependence on the rainfall. Their farms are very large, and they do not always take kindly to the suggestion of irrigation and subdivision. Mr. Cleek's little place is in the midst of these great farms, many of which have now passed out of the hands of their former owners as a result of mortgage foreclosure. I found it an oasis of prosperity in a desert of despair. When the proprietor told me that he had supported himself and wife for 30 years on that single acre of irrigated land, and when his neighbors informed me that he was one of the men in the little town who always had money to loan on good security or to donate to a worthy cause, I marveled much and had an immediate desire to know just how he had used his land to produce such a result. Mr. Thomas Brown, secretary of the Lemon home colony, took the trouble to obtain and send me the following exact information:

Barn and corral space, 75x75 feet; rabbit hutch, 25x25 feet; house and porches, 30x30 feet; two windmill towers, 16x16 feet each; garden, 46x94 feet; blackberries, 16x90 feet; strawberries, 65x90 feet; citrus nursery, 90x98 feet, in which there are 2,300 trees budded; one row of dewberries, 100 feet long; 4 apricot trees; 2 oak trees; 3 peach trees; 6 fig trees; 10 locust trees; 30 assorted roses; 20 assorted geraniums; 12 lemon trees, bearing, which are seven years old; 1 lime tree, nine years old and bearing, from which were sold last year 160 dozen limes; 8 bearing orange trees; 5 pomegranate trees; one patch of bamboo; 3 calla lilies; 4 prune trees; 3 blue gum trees; 6 cypress trees; 4 grapevines; 1 English ivy; 2 honeysuckles; 1 seed bed; 1 violet bed; 1 sage bed; 2 tomato vines, which are in bloom (December 2); 13 stands of bees.

Mr. Cleeks informed me that from the foregoing sources he has no difficulty in realizing a comfortable living and putting \$400 aside each year. If the same could be said of the average wheat grower, farming thousands of acres without irrigation, the condition in the Sacramento valley would be very different from what it is. As the matter stands to-day it must be acknowledged that one irrigated acre in the Sacramento valley returns a larger net profit than 10,000 acres without irrigation. To be sure, Mr. Cleeks owes a part of his prosperity to the folly of his neighbors whom he supplies with oranges and lemons, peaches, apricots, berries and sundry other luxuries. That, however,

is one of the striking advantages of irrigation, since it permits of intensive and diversified cultivation.—H. Durham, in Land of Sunshine.

THE ORIGIN OF THE IDEA OF ABOLISHING THE GENERAL PROPERTY TAX.

An extract from a sermon delivered in the Vine Street Congregational church, Cincinnati, November 24, by the pastor, Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow.

It is pleasant to remember that in the same year our fathers began their war of protest against the tax levies of King George, across the water in the mother country there was born the idea of a new system of taxation, which, had it been adopted then, would have prevented that war, and which, as it grows in form, is certain to unite the nations in a closer brotherhood than is possible while tariff laws remain the bulwark of national jealousies, and national selfishness.

In 1750 there was born in Scotland one Thomas Spence, the son of a mat maker. When the war of the revolution broke out, Spence was a school-teacher in Newcastle, Scotland. The councilmen of Newcastle determined to inclose a portion of the common. Much as our government might open an Indian reservation for settlement, these city fathers divided among a few, lands which until then had been held in common. The citizens objected. It does not appear that they objected to the private occupation of the lands, but they declared that they were joint stockholders in the landed estate, and they contended that it was the duty of the city officials to collect rents from these holders of the city lands, and that from these rentals a dividend should be declared in favor of the citizens. The case was carried into court and decided in favor of the people.

Spence reflected upon this. He asked himself the question: If the rents of one portion of the land should be divided among all the people, why should not the ground rent of all the land be considered a public asset? Then the problem as to a just method of distributing this rental presented itself, and he solved it as Henry George solved it a century later, and recognized the doctrine of the common and inalienable inheritance in the land by substituting ground taxes for all other taxes.

In 1775 Spence read an essay setting forth this plan before the members of a Philosophical society of which he was a member. It is unnecessary to state that there was an intolerable amount

of wisdom in that essay, for this society took the first opportunity of striking the name of Thomas Spence from its roll—the only name that could save those philosophers from oblivion. This society, like some modern ones, appears to have been organized for the purpose of searching after the truth, but with no intention of finding it.

The people of Newcastle were like the peasants of Gadara. They preferred to drive a prophet from their shores rather than let the price of pork go down. In a word, they boycotted Spence's school and thus deprived him of a livelihood. Those teachers are best paid who make a profession of telling men what they already know. They starve who presume to teach men what they need to learn.

Does the world grow better? The most signal political victory of the year was won in Cuyahoga county, by Tom L. Johnson, shall I say in spite of, or because of, the fact that he was known to be a fearless advocate of the idea for which Spence lay in a London jail a century ago?

THE OUTLANDER GRIEVANCES.

An extract from an address delivered by Western Starr at Handel hall, Chicago, November 4, under the auspices of the Chicago branch of the American Transvaal league.

The Outlanders, unnaturalized foreigners, were an aggregation of adventurers from every land under the sun, about 60,000 in number, drawn from every rank and station in life, and of whom less than half were English. These English clamored for the rights of citizenship in the South African Republic and declined as a rule to abandon allegiance to the British sovereign. The Outlanders took advantage of the situation, the growing embarrassments between the Transvaal and the English government, to crowd both into difficulties with a view to hawking their influence. They howled about a recognition of the English language in the schools; they complained of the enormous taxes paid by the mining industry; they demanded recognition as an industry in the volksraad; they objected to the government monopoly in explosives; but no one or all of these and other ostensible grievances were real, and their outcry was not sincere.

Let us note the real reasons in the official reports of representatives of the capitalist Outlanders who conspired with Rhodes and Jameson.

The capitalist mine owners openly said that the Outlanders "did not care a fig" for the franchise. An American, one Hammond, a mining engineer, em-

ployed as an expert by the mining corporations and largely interested, said in London on November 18, 1899:

There are in South Africa millions of Kaffirs and it does seem preposterous that we are not able to obtain 70,000 or 80,000 Kaffirs to work upon the mines. With good government there should be an abundance of labor, and with an abundance of labor there will be no difficulty in cutting down wages, because it is preposterous to pay a Kaffir the present wages. He would be quite as well satisfied, in fact he would work longer, if you gave him half the amount. (Reported in Financial News of November 26.)

Preposterous Hammond, expatriated by that one speech. One of Mr. Hammond's associates, a Mr. Rudd, said openly:

If they could only get one-half the natives to work three months of the year, it would work wonders. . . . They should try some cogent form of inducement or practically compel the native through taxation or in some other way to contribute his quota to the good of the community and to a certain extent he would then have to work. . . . If under the cry of civilization, we in Egypt lately mowed down 10,000 or 20,000 Dervishes with Maxims surely it cannot be considered a hardship to compel the natives in South Africa to give three months in the year to do a little honest work.

Civilization Rudd, a child, or a fool, or drunk. It was estimated that if only one of these great companies had the power to force the natives to work for wages low enough, that company could increase its profits \$10,000,000 a year. But, to the sorrow of these advocates of a new system of slavery, the Transvaal government had established labor laws and regulations which interfered with the utopian and entirely benevolent aspirations of the mine owning companies.

The republic taxed the gold product of the Rand 2½ per cent., they taxed all miners of gold alike. English or German Jews, or Boers, or Americans, all who produced gold paid their taxes under a general law. American miners along our Alaskan boundary pay not 2½ per cent. but ten per cent. of their output to British agents as taxes and we hear no wail from the English colonial offices over the oppression. An examination of the returns of 20 representative mining companies of the Rand shows that their dividends for the year 1899 averaged over 68 per cent., some of them more than 100 per cent., and if one of them by having a free hand to enslave the natives could add \$10,000,000 to its yearly dividends it would mean an increase of over 25 per cent. in dividends on the capital stock of the greatest mining section the world has ever known. This is the secret of the Outlanders' interest. It