

tinued on the 18th, 19th and 20th. The naval bill was passed on the 21st. It carries an appropriation of more than \$61,000,000 and provides for the construction of two battleships and three armored cruisers of the first class. On the 23d consideration of the post office appropriation bill was begun.

MISCELLANY

SAINT HELENA.

For The Public.

An Isle that symbols vain regret,
Long rest by haunting dreams beset,
Where seabird's cry and billow's fret
Lend voice to isolation.

A fortress nature fain had kept,
And in its brooding silence slept,
Where human wrong had never crept
With fearful desecration.

There fierce ambition died away,
Through what long anguish who can say?
Or if its sunset cold and gray

Was flushed with dreams of slaughter.
The fevered breath of homesick pain,
The inborn pride so slow to wane
Passed long ago, but left a stain
Swept not by wind or water.

On that lone Isle, his gaze afar
With thoughts amid the thick of war,
Where trusted life-long comrades are,

By wave and rock-wall guarded,
Sits sullen Cronje, coarse and grim,
As captors fond of trappings trim,
Triumphantly have pictured him
Whose face no search rewarded.

No eye could pierce that alien mask,
No friend or foe had need to ask
If well performed his mighty task

That sought no meed of glory.
But never could that awful day
When 'mid the wreck of deadly fray
He stood like royal beast at bay,
Fade from his country's story.

Not that with fatal end in sight
He foiled the blow as best he might,
But that he fought for freedom's right

When only blood availed it.
Before him rose his native veldt
Where first in fervent prayer he knelt
For guidance of the zeal he felt,
When greed of might assailed it.

Yet there are those who deem it shame
That loyal Cronje's humble name
Should stand by his, whose olden fame

Rings through the world's arena.
Not till we try by truer test
Than surface thought has ever guessed,
May we decide which honored best
The prison of Saint Helena.

D. H. INGHAM.

THE COST OF MATERIAL AND LABOR.

A concern located in Pennsylvania recently made the following detailed statement of the increased cost of materials entering into their line of manufacture. They make vises, machinists' and plumbers' tools, etc., and their statement is as follows:

"The following percentages show the actual increase in costs of raw materials which enter largely into the manu-

facture of our lines, over prices current in the spring of 1899: Pig iron, 125 per cent.; steel, 100 per cent.; copper, 81 per cent.; tin plate, 76 per cent.; wire, 132 per cent.; nails, 170 per cent.; lumber, 87 per cent.; bolts, 111 per cent.; asbestos, 31 per cent.; pipe, 184 per cent.; pipe fittings, 111 per cent.; rivets, 110 per cent.; oils, 100 per cent."

As nearly as we can judge, the rate of wages paid for labor has advanced about ten per cent., although this, of course, does not mean that labor costs have advanced in the same proportion, because the work of increasing labor's efficiency has been going on continually, and we think it perfectly safe to say that the labor cost of most lines of machinery has been reduced at least ten per cent. annually for several years past; we mean, of course, in those shops that have been under the influence of modern progress and have kept themselves up to date.—American Machinist of March 8.

FITTING PEOPLE FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT.

The cant that other races are not fitted for self-government, that the Cubans, the Puerto Ricans and the Filipinos must wait until the countrymen of Quay and Platt and Croker and Lodge decide that they are competent, is food for universal mirth. Aguinaldo's judgment on American capacity to govern would have equal force. Mr. Beveridge will not be disturbed if we do not concede self-government to our subjects for a hundred years. He would have "a free hand." Freebooters ask nothing more.

No nation ever learned to govern itself until it had the chance to try. No master of another race or nation ever decided that it was fitted to look after its own affairs. In the nature of things, where no voice is allowed, no self-constituted keeper will heed its plea for freedom. I share in the belief, recently uttered, that bad self-government is better than good government by another, and hold, with John Hay, in his "Castilian Days," before Washington days had destroyed his faith in liberty: "There are those who think the Spaniards are not fit for freedom. I believe that no people are fit for anything else." Wisdom comes through failures and mistakes. Only an enemy would prevent a people from making them. And a benevolent despot is rare and short-lived.—William Lloyd Garrison, at Providence, R. I., April 7.

Fortune sometimes favors the brave, and sometimes she leads them into a trap.—Puck.

WHAT JEFFERSON WOULD DO IN REGARD TO TRUSTS.

An extract from an address on "What Jefferson Would Do," delivered by the Hon. John P. Altgeld before the Albany Bimetallic League at Albany, N. Y., April 16.

How about trusts? Jefferson would abolish all monopoly and all special privileges. This much we know, for he has told us. If this were done, there would not be a trust left in America. But how would he do it? In my judgment, and I speak only for myself, there is only one way, and that is to have the people own and operate all necessary monopolies, such as municipal utilities and transportation. This done, most of the others would dissolve. There would be no private monopoly in this country. Leave everything possible to individual enterprise, and where that will not suffice, let the people do it in their collective capacity, for they are all equally interested.

But is this not opposed to the principles of Jefferson? On the contrary, it is in harmony with them.

Government in his day was something distinct from the people, and he wanted that government to meddle as little as possible with their affairs.

But he always labored to have everything possible left directly with the people. He had confidence in them, and wanted them to govern directly. He and Lincoln were alike in regard to having confidence in the people.

Experience has shown that a corporation standing between the people and the state will, when possible, plunder the one and debauch the other, and is therefore a constant menace to free government.

Having confidence in the people and making their welfare his guide, I believe he would have them keep everything possible in their own hands, and not put it in the power of any set of men to plunder them.

But no matter what the method of procedure, we know that he would enforce the law, and no attorney general from New Jersey would be paid a salary by the government to find out how not to do it.

PRETORIA BEFORE THE WAR.

Extracts from an article with the above title, by Howard C. Hillegas, published in Harper's Magazine for March.

At the station there is a scene which is so plainly the opposite of that which presented itself at Johannesburg that it is difficult to imagine how two such widely different cities could exist side by side and under the