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The Transvaal peace envoys now in Europe deny that the Transvaal forced the war upon England, and propose to prove it. Proof from them is hardly necessary. It is proved by the official dispatches published in British blue books.

From Cleveland it is reported that a manufacturing company there has been importing machinists from New York to break a nine-hour strike. The report states that there are 4,000 or 5,000 idle machinists in New York—"men who cannot get anything to do, for lack of work." What has become of all the bounding prosperity in the machinist's trade in New York of which we had such glowing reports a few months ago?

President McKinley has signed the Puerto Rican government bill, which imposes a customs tariff upon the commerce of Puerto Rico with the states. Less than five months ago, in his message to congress he said it was the "plain duty" of this country to establish free trade with Puerto Rico. Why, then, did he sign the tariff measure? Has he changed his mind? He does not say so. Have the conditions changed? Not in the slightest. Has he violated a plain duty? It looks like it.

Senator Morgan appears to have triumphed for reelection as senator from Alabama over Gov. Johnston. In Alabama only democrats—those who label themselves so—have much to say about elections to office. Consequently it is the democratic primaries instead of the official elections

that determine results. These were held, on the 14th, after a campaign within the party, which had been in progress for some weeks. The object of the primaries was the nomination of candidates for the legislature; and the burning issue of the campaign was Morgan or Johnston for senator. By the latest reports Morgan will probably have 116 out of the 120 democratic votes in the next legislature. This is a great republican triumph. Though Morgan is not nominally a republican, and as a declared republican could not possibly be elected to the senate from Alabama, he is one of the Hanna-McKinley representatives in the democratic party. His triumph, therefore, is a Hanna-McKinley victory, of even greater importance in the long run than the election of an Alabama republican would be.

Americanism is becoming worthily distinctive in these days when Anglo-Saxonism is off man-hunting in the Philippines and South Africa. And no one has more happily phrased the distinction than William J. Bryan. In one of the speeches of his recent triumphal tour of the Pacific Coast, Mr. Bryan said:

Anglo-Saxon civilization has taught man to look after his own rights. American civilization will teach him to respect the rights of others. The Anglo-Saxon civilization has taught the individual to take care of himself, while the American civilization has taught the individual that he can best preserve his own rights by recognizing the commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

If the republican measures in congress for the suppression of trusts were conceived in good faith, they would be harbingers of danger to democratic institutions. But they are introduced only for the purpose of supplying Hanna-McKinley stump speakers with talking material for the

campaign. These speakers can read the anti-trust resolutions which their party proposes, and with dramatic gesture exclaim: "Behold how our party would crush the monstrous trusts!" But after the election, if it "went right" the measures would be pigeon-holed until the next one. For that reason we need have no fears of the adoption of a constitutional amendment such as the republicans propose, which would practically subject all the private business of the country to congressional legislation and cap the very climax of centralization of power in the general government.

It is not possible at present for an outsider to tell whether the shut down of the steel and wire trust is a stock jobbing operation or a shrewd move in anticipation of the inevitable. It is not unlikely both. There is no doubt that trust managers depend upon stock jobbing. They can afford to keep their businesses going at a loss and even to pay dividends now and then without earning them, by having recourse to the profits they make in buying their own stock upon the street when they intend to send it up and selling it when they intend to force it down. Thus the "lambs" may be made to keep trusts going when the legitimate business of the trust will not. This may be the meaning of the steel and wire shut down. There are certainly reasons for supposing that the shut down is not unrelated to a ruinous falling off of demand in consequence of the exorbitant prices to which the trust has marked up its goods. That farmers have greatly cut down their purchases of wire fencing every observer knows. This is one fact which, together with facts of like character, indicates that the steel and wire trust has reached the limit of its power for the present.

Not improbably, then, the managers of this particular trust have been the first to see that "the prosperity dodge has been played to the limit," and are playing the Wall street dodge for all that it is worth, in anticipation of the crash that is surely coming.

The National Wall Paper company is often cited as an example of a gigantic trust that flourishes without any legalized special privilege. Its control of full lines of patterns is referred to as the source of its strength as a trust. The probability is that the wall paper trust is not without legalized privileges in the way of patents, secret transportation contracts, tariff interferences with competition, and so on. Nevertheless, this trust is not unlikely a type of the trusts, so-called, that have little support from legalized privileges, comparatively. And it is beginning to go the way of all such trusts. It now transpires that this wall paper trust has been able to control only a small percentage of the wall paper output. By raising prices it so stimulated competition that more than 80 anti-trust factories sprang up in the United States, and diverted the profits of the trust. This is another exemplification of the truth that a trust which does not rest upon legalized privileges must either give the public the benefit of reduced prices or go to the wall. If it raises prices it invites its own destruction by starting up competition. In no other way can competition be prevented from pulling down a trust than by investing the trust with legal privileges.

The sensation over Turkey's neglect to pay \$100,000 which she owes some American missionaries is not likely to get further than the "scare" headlines of sensational newspapers. Should it reach the bellicose stage it would be an everlasting disgrace of this nation. If Turkey neglects or refuses to pay what she acknowledges to be a just debt, the moral proprieties would justify this country in recalling its representative at Constantinople and intimating that the

continuance of the Turkish representative's presence at Washington was no longer congenial. Nations, like people, when they have debts due them are at perfect liberty to decline association with the nations or people that owe and wont pay. But for this country to send warships to Turkey and seize a customhouse to collect the debt at the mouth of cannon would be an act of low down ruffianism. The custom of the ruffian nations of Europe would not condone but would rather emphasize the crime. Besides, no money debt that Turkey owes any American missionary is worth a single American life; and any American missionary who is also a Christian would say the same.

A most significant pro-Boer meeting was held at Eau Claire, Wis., on the 5th, of which much less has been said in the press than its importance deserves. The meeting, which filled to overflowing the largest hall in the city, was addressed by leading citizens; and it adopted unanimously, with a series of ringing preambles, a resolution calling upon the American government to demand of Great Britain that she make peace with the South African Republic and the Orange Free State upon the basis of their independence. H. B. Walmsley, Esq., presided. What makes this meeting especially significant is the fact that Eau Claire, a city of some 20,000, has but a small Irish population and no Hollanders. Its inhabitants are mostly native born Americans, Scandinavians and Germans. That the resolutions express the spirit that prevails in the West and Northwest with reference to the war in South Africa is an assured fact. American friendship for the jingoes and the jingoism of Great Britain is confined very closely to Washington. The American people of the west and northwest, at any rate, have but little of it.

The complaints which the tory newspapers of England make against

the Swiss arbitrators in the Delagoa matter are not at all calculated to enhance the English reputation for fair play. Portugal had granted a franchise to an American for a railroad from Delagoa bay to the Transvaal line. The American bonded his franchise in England and built a wretched apology for a road, which could not be operated. When the Portuguese government learned that it had been buncoed, and that instead of gaining a real railroad to the Transvaal it had acquired an ornamental British mortgage of the most realistic description, it notified the American who held the franchise that unless he should complete the road by the expiration of eight months his franchise would be forfeited. He paid no attention to the notification. Not until the eight months of grace had almost expired did he even move in the matter. Accordingly, the Portuguese government very properly and very justly nullified his franchise. Then the British bondholders were hot to send a fleet to Portugal and demand compensation. But the British government concluded to submit the matter to arbitrators, claiming, however, enormous damages for loss of profits. In other words, Great Britain sought to mulct Portugal in damages for what might have been made out of the road if in good faith under the franchise grant it had been properly built and kept in operation. But the Swiss arbitrators, with a keener sense of justice, ruled out prospective profits and limited the damages approximately to the value of what the grantee of the franchise had done. This was fair play. Yet the tory journals of London regard it as "a severe blow" at arbitration; which implies that in their estimation a fleet would have yielded their bondholding fellow subjects a more profitable award than did this fair minded Swiss tribunal.

President McKinley's Philippine committee, of which Schurman was president, has cost \$117,185. The president transmits an itemized state-