

side of reform work, the best advice we can give him is to join one of these parties, and after looking up its antecedents to follow its fortunes for awhile. The chance is one in 30,000, or thereabouts, that he may become a chronic side-party man. But if he misses that lonesome chance, he will have had his demon of impatience exorcised and be in good condition thereafter to work intelligently for his cause instead of blindly for a fetich.

**NEWS**

A sensational report upon Chinese news was sent out from Washington on the 6th. It came in the form of a dispatch purporting to be from the American charge d'affaires at Peking, Mr. Squiers. The terms of the dispatch were: "Peking, April 6, 11 a. m., Secretary of State, Washington.—The Russian minister refuses to receive official communications from the Chinese peace commissioners. (Signed) Squiers, charge d'affaires American Legation." The dispatch had earmarks of forgery, but it was commented upon as indicating Russia's intention of making war upon China for rejecting the proposed Manchurian treaty. On the 7th, however, Secretary Hay authorized a denial of the report that such a dispatch had been received.

Both that dispatch and the denial were preceded by a circumstantial official statement from the Russian government regarding the Manchurian treaty question. The statement explained that, pending the settlement of the Chinese questions affecting all the powers, Russia considered it necessary to establish permanent order along the Russian-Manchurian frontier. To that end provisional terms were agreed upon between Russia and the Chinese governors of three Manchurian provinces, with reference to local civil administration. Subsequently Russia drafted a special agreement with China for the gradual evacuation of Manchuria by Russia and the adoption of measures to insure peace in the province. This agreement was intended as a basis "for the restoration to China, as contemplated by the Russian government, of the province of Manchuria, which, in consequence of the alarming events of last year, was occupied

by Russian troops;" but false texts of the proposed agreement were published by a hostile foreign press, importing an intention on Russia's part to establish a protectorate over Manchuria, in consequence of which hindrances were placed in the way, and the acceptance of the agreement by China, "which was indispensable for the gradual evacuation of the province, proved to be impossible." Referring to the possibility of an eventual restoration of Manchuria to China, this official explanation declares it to be—

manifest that such intention can only be carried out when the normal situation is completely restored to the empire, and the central government established at the capital independent and strong enough to guarantee Russia against a recurrence of the events of last year.

The explanation concludes with this diplomatic intimation as to Russia's Manchurian policy:

While the Russian government maintains its present organization in Manchuria, to preserve order in the vicinity of the broad frontiers of Russia, and remains faithful to its original and oft-repeated political programme, it will quietly await the further course of events.

Upon the publication of this explanation, Russia was officially advised by the American minister, pursuant to instructions from Washington, of the gratification it afforded the president.

There are heavy headline reports of another uprising in northern China, under the leadership of Tung-Fu-Sian, but it is not regarded in official circles as at all menacing. The only other Chinese news of moment is the decision of the American government, given out from Washington on the 4th, directing Gen. Chaffee to take no part in the destruction of the Chinese forts from the coast to Peking, and the establishment in their place of a chain of fortified foreign posts, which course has been determined upon by the other powers.

The war in South Africa has advanced a stage. Great Britain captured, on the 8th, the town of Pietersburg, which has been the capital of the South African republic since the fall of Pretoria. Pietersburg is a village in a sparsely settled country at the northern terminus of the railway which runs from Cape Town northward through Pretoria and into the

mountains. It is about 170 miles above Pretoria. The capture was made after slight opposition, only 60 Boer prisoners being taken and only two British being killed. The Boer garrison had evacuated the village the night before the British force arrived. Some other skirmishes are reported, none of which are important except the capture by a force of Boers, after several hours' fighting, of 75 out of a British force of 100. This event occurred at a point northward from Aberdeen, Cape Colony, and is reported by Lord Kitchener.

The British casualties in South Africa for the month of March, as reported from London on the 4th, are as follows:

|               | Officers. | Men. |
|---------------|-----------|------|
| Killed .....  | 9         | 103  |
| Wounded ..... | 26        | 270  |
| Total .....   | 35        | 373  |

In an interview at Utrecht on the 4th, President Kruger gave his views on the subject of arbitration. He expressed his entire readiness to submit all questions between the South African republic and the Orange Free State, on one side, and Great Britain on the other, to an impartial tribunal, including even the question of independence. His language was:

Not even excepting the question of independence. We would sacrifice our liberty if the verdict of arbitration decided that one or the other of the chiefs of the republics had done anything to forfeit it.

Mr. Fischer, the delegate from the Orange Free State, was present and assented.

Philippine news consists largely of reports of surrenders here and there in the islands, and of prognostications as to the character of the American civil government, to be inaugurated July 1. Meanwhile a mystery hangs about the prisoner Aguinaldo. While apparently provided for comfortably, he is kept in close confinement. No newspaper correspondent has yet been allowed to see him. It is said that other visitors are freely admitted, but this may be reasonably doubted. If such visitors were admitted freely, the exclusion of newspaper men would be without purpose or effect. Secret influences are evidently being brought to bear upon Aguinaldo in his prison to induce him, as the head of the Filipino government, to proclaim a general sur-