

But the privileged class, now as aforetime, fears the anger of the unprivileged. Therefore it protests that there are no classes. Therefore it paints bright pictures of the success that awaits all who "say nothing, but saw wood." Therefore it explains that everybody can have a retinue of servants if he works hard enough—everybody! Therefore it deplures speaking and writing which may arouse non-existent poor classes against non-existent rich classes. Therefore it goes into hysterics when a brooding victim of the privileged class loses his balance and with the fatuity of a mad man slays a chief officer of the law. Therefore it forgets the struggles for liberty that gave birth to this republic, and proposes abandoning republican institutions as a failure and putting press and platform under censorship. Therefore it would silence all talk about classes, all comparisons of rich and poor, all discussions that might weaken the underpinnings of the legal privileges which empower it to plunder the masses who have no privileges.

Its apologists know, as many business men have learned and more are learning, that success in business has ceased to be possible without a monopoly. Therefore they are solicitous for monopoly, for privilege. So they become sticklers for property. They stickle for property as the Doones did. Not for property righteously acquired, but just for property—for property right or wrong.

Against the legalized depredations of this class, the voice of every honest man must be raised, even though he be a beneficiary. Against these depredations the vote of every patriotic man, beneficiary of privilege though he be, must be cast. And that votes may be cast with intelligence, platform and press must be kept free for the untrammelled discussion of the question of classes in our country and of the legal privileges that produce them. If madmen are inspired to kill because sane men speak and write and vote against privilege, let the blame rest where it belongs; not upon those who denounce privilege but upon those who maintain it, not upon those who champion the principles of the republic but upon those who are

undermining the republic, not upon those who plead the common cause but upon those who plead the cause and promote the schemes of predatory class interests.

## NEWS

There are no further developments in Afghanistan consequent upon the death of Ameer Abdur Rahman, of which we told last week. The dispatches from India report a peaceful recognition by the people of Habibullah as the late ameer's successor. But Russian dispatches have a different color. From St. Petersburg an outbreak of civil war in Afghanistan is reported as certain; which means, if there is any basis for the report, that the Russian government is more than willing. Reading between the lines of the dispatches from India, the Russian predictions of an outbreak seem to be not inconsiderately made. British authorities in India are evidently disturbed by the situation.

Under cover of martial law, proclaimed over all Cape Colony as reported last week, Lord Kitchener appears now to have inaugurated a shocking and pitiless policy of murder. The full extent of this policy is not yet known, for he has stopped the publication of local newspapers and allows no news to get to the outer world which he does not approve and can suppress. It is known only that two Boer leaders, Lotter and his lieutenant, prisoners of war, have been tried by British court-martial and under Kitchener's orders shot. Another leader, Scheeper, has been captured, and it is supposed will suffer a like fate. Reprisals by the Boers are probable, and a war of merciless slaughter, to the point of utter extermination, looms up. Kruger's words of warning, that Great Britain might crush the two South African republics but it would be at a price at which the world would stand aghast, are taken seriously now.

In the field, the British are still baffled. Though they reported Botha in a trap at the beginning of the week, they now concede that he has escaped, with his little army, and is at large in the Transvaal ready for another of his swoops. It is evident from the dispatches also that the two battles, Itala and Moerwill, recently reported

as dearly bought British victories, were in fact victories for the Boers.

Exasperated by the continuance of the war, which Lord Roberts declared a year ago to be at an end, the British people have criticised the ministry until Mr. Broderick, the secretary for war, stung by these criticisms, has made a public statement. He makes it in the form of a letter to Sir Charles Howard Vincent, which appeared in print in London on the 10th. In this letter Mr. Broderick declares that the total number of men now under arms to conquer the Boers is 300,000—100,000 in training at home and 200,000 in South Africa. There are also in South Africa 450 British guns. Supplies are being provided by the war office, he says, for 314,000 persons, directly or indirectly connected with the war, and 248,000 horses and mules. During the first six months of the present year, he adds, 61,000 fresh troops were sent out to Lord Kitchener.

American sympathy with the Boers in the present crisis has been expressed at two public meetings in Chicago, one presided over by Judge Edward F. Dunne and the other by Edward Osgood Brown. More of these meetings are to be held. Resolutions were adopted at both calling upon President Roosevelt to intimate to Great Britain that the American people are indignant at the barbarous and cruel mode of warfare her army has adopted in South Africa. The second meeting further declared that—

by the evidence submitted it is conclusively shown that England, in her attempt to subdue a nation fighting for her liberty, has waged and is waging warfare upon innocent women and children, and has been and is guilty of unfairness, inhumanity, and violation of the laws of civilized warfare.

It also called—

upon all who sympathize with the women and children herded in the concentration camps of South Africa, to do their utmost in contributing money and influence to bring relief to the victims of Great Britain's barbaric methods.

These American expressions of sympathy with the Boers, however, are offset by British statesmen with references to the American war in the Philippines, which they cite in justification of the British procedure in South Africa. In fact, the American

war in the Philippines is not unlike the other. For one thing, though declared nearly a year ago to be at an end, it is nevertheless still alive. Since the disaster to the Americans at Balangiga (p. 410), a serious action has taken place at Batangas, the capital of the province of Batangas, on the island of Luzon. At that place 300 Filipinos were entrenched and were dislodged by the Americans only with difficulty and loss. At first the Americans were repulsed. But after securing reinforcements they made a second assault in which they were successful. Among the Americans killed was Lieut. Bean, of the Twenty-first Infantry. There are other indications in the dispatches of Filipino activity, but the dispatches are very indefinite about it. One of them, however, tells with unusual definiteness, of the disarming of the police force at Banan, in the province of Batangas, and of the arrest of municipal officers there. The charge is "belonging to an insurgent society." A terrific typhoon, the worst in ten years, with its center about 60 miles from Manila, has done enormous damage including the total destruction of the town of Baler.

The last official act on the part of the Chinese government as a condition of reoccupying China (p. 376) was performed on the 13th, when the Chinese plenipotentiaries at Peking delivered to the Spanish minister, dean of the diplomatic corps, the requisite bond for 450,000,000 taels (about \$327,000,000), which is the amount of indemnity China agrees to pay (p. 250) to the powers for the expenses and damages incurred by them in suppressing the Boxer uprising.

Australian politics have become critical. We noted this last week (p. 426) in announcing the introduction in the parliament of the Commonwealth of the ministerial tariff bill. As the protection which this bill proposes is moderate, an issue involving the dissolution of parliament may not, as surmised, arise. The free trade fight may be postponed. But it must come sooner or later, and a knowledge of the general political situation is important. The Commonwealth of Australia was formed in the summer of 1900 (vol. iii., p. 601) by the passage in the British parliament of an enabling act. The then Australian colonies, now states, had adopted a federal constitution (vol. ii., No. 64,

p. 9), to which this parliamentary enabling act gave political vitality. Immediately thereafter, July 14, 1900, Queen Victoria appointed the Earl of Hopetoun as governor general of the new Commonwealth, and on the 19th of December of the same year the governor general invited Sir William Lyne, then prime minister of New South Wales, to form the first federal cabinet. Lyne was unable to secure the cooperation of the men he wanted and therefore declined. Mr. Edmund Barton, leader in the constitutional convention, and an eminent protectionist, was then appointed and is now prime minister of the Commonwealth. All his associate ministers are protectionists. The inauguration of the governor general having taken place with the opening of the twentieth century (vol. iii., p. 616), federal parliamentary elections were held in March, and on the 9th of May (vol. iv., p. 89) parliament was ceremoniously opened at Melbourne. The upper house, or senate, consists of 36 members, 6 from each state; in the lower house, the house of representatives, the membership is 75, the number from each state varying according to population. Both houses are elected by direct popular vote. The senate has almost equal power with the lower house. Though money bills must originate in the latter and cannot be amended by the senate, yet the senate may suggest amendments and reject the bills unless the lower house acquiesces in the suggestions. The parliamentary elections already mentioned were fought mainly on the question of protection or revenue tariff, free traders supporting the latter policy. They could not be more radical, because a fiscal policy universally agreed upon for the opening era of the new government excluded direct taxation. With reference to customs and excise duties it had been provided by the federal constitution that for the first ten years three-quarters of the revenue so derived should be turned over to the states. This was to prevent dislocation of state finances through the transfer of jurisdiction over tariffs from the states to the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth needs an income of about \$10,000,000 per year. Since this is to be derived wholly from customs and excise duties, three-quarters of which must be paid to the states, a total revenue of \$40,000,000 is necessary. A free trade policy is thus precluded. But so also is a high protection policy, for high duties would militate

against revenues. The bill presented by the ministry is therefore—and perhaps also for fear of raising too sharp an issue—necessarily moderate in its protection features. It is estimated by the ministry to yield \$45,000,000, of which they propose to use the surplus for subsidizing domestic industries. As stated above, the elections of last spring were fought mainly on the tariff issue. The principal exception was in Queensland, where the leading issue was the question of the exclusion of Kanaka labor. The parliamentary elections resulted as follows:

	Senate.	House.
Ministerialists .....	14	22
Opposition .....	42	33

The senate elected a free trader as president, and the house elected a free trader as speaker. From that fact it is evident that the parties are not formed on strict lines. There is in fact a labor party, the representatives of which, 22 in number in the two houses, are a disturbing element in both of the leading parties, some of them being ministerialists and some in the opposition. They act in a body on industrial questions, and are likely to do so in any emergency on other questions, as a matter of "log-rolling." As individuals some of them are protectionists and some free traders, but as a body they aspire to holding the balance of power. The important consideration with them is the Kanaka question mentioned above. This question needs explanation. In Queensland a number of Polynesians, called Kanakas, are employed on the sugar plantations for very low wages. The planters say that white workmen cannot stand the climate, but what really interests the planters, doubtless, is cheap labor. In the northern parts of South Australia and Queensland there are also a number of Chinese, Hindus and Japanese, whose numbers are increasing. In consequence of this condition the ministry seem to be flirting with the labor party by adopting a policy which they label "white Australia." The "white Australia" question has some complications of its own. The Japanese claim to be a civilized people, recognized as such by the sisterhood of nations, and therefore not to be discriminated against as Kanakas; while the Hindus set up a right, as British subjects, to settle in Australia without restriction. But the question is very likely to affect the action of parliament on the ministerial tariff bill. Indications are strong that the ministry have adopted the "white