

ciples the flag represented, had given way; as the test of patriotism, to adoration of the bunting of which it was made. Lynchings had grown common. Brutal hazings had revived among college students. On all sides the evidence was abundant that the people themselves had become lawless. In the common mind a spirit of anarchy was being generated in the name and by the methods of the strenuous life.

This was the psychological environment of the susceptible Czolgosz when he shocked the world with his crime.

It may not be that Czolgosz derived his murderous impulse from those evil influences. But if he did not, then it is folly to look for it beyond the malice of his own heart, or a disease of his own brain. If any external influences—other than direct instigation, of which there is no evidence—are responsible for this crime, they must be influences not only of sufficient concentration to have possessed the man, and, in the psychological sense, to have used him; but also of a character corresponding to his act. To those requirements the mental condition of the American people which we have described conforms. It was for the time the distinguishing characteristic or spirit of the American mind; and it was strikingly pictured forth by what Czolgosz did. What the imperialistic spirit, the spirit of the strenuous life, the spirit that acknowledges destiny for its deity, the spirit of scholastic atheism which ignores the moral law, the spirit that puts might above right, the spirit of masterful domination, the spirit that delights in deadly combat, the spirit of murder garbed in the apparel of patriotism—what these blended in one in the common mind are in the abstract, precisely that was Czolgosz's crime in the concrete. If Czolgosz was a victim of obsession at all, then this must have been the evil influence that controlled him.

At any rate, with the possibility of an influence such as that to explain his crime as the act of an irresponsible weakling obeying an external impulse, it is absurd to turn to minor influences. The teachings of anarchists, the rhetorical and pictorial

caricatures of a yellow press, political opposition to the party in power, together with all the other asserted influences by which Czolgosz might have been affected, are too insignificant to be compared with the influence of the vicious spirit of the time which has exalted power above justice, war above peace, and national ambition above moral obligation.

And whether these psychological speculations be well founded or not, the American people will lose nothing if they reflect for a season upon Czolgosz's crime as an outward manifestation or visible picture of an evil spirit of enormously destructive possibilities which had found lodgment in the common mind. There is a lesson here that should not be lost.

NEWS

Censored dispatches from South Africa, meager as they are in detail, show nevertheless that the Boers are still maintaining their military resistance to the British occupation of their country. As their commandos have been several times surprised by the British in the dead of night, they now shift at nightfall, so that the British themselves are surprised by finding only abandoned camps where they had designed, after long and fatiguing night marches, to capture Boer commandos. Some British successes are enumerated, however, though of a minor kind, such as the capture of small groups of prisoners and herds of cattle. At one time during the week DeWet's death was reported by different prisoners, but the reports did not tally when compared and are now disbelieved. One brisk fight is mentioned in the censored dispatches; but with what result, other than the loss of several British soldiers wounded, and five killed, including a captain, the dispatch does not say.

The result of that fight may be inferred, however, from other facts. The battle occurred near Piquetberg, which lies on the southwest slope of the Olifants River mountains, and is on the route to the Atlantic coast at Saldancho bay. As the same censored dispatch which reports the Piquetberg battle announces that a Boer commando of 500 men had pene-

trated to Saldancho bay, the inference is that the fight at Piquetberg was won by the Boers. That a Boer force should have fought its way to the coast at this point, only 75 miles northwest of Cape Town and in the adjoining colonial district, is highly significant of the completeness of the Cape Colony revolt against Lord Kitchener's methods of warfare, and of the revival of the Boer cause. This significance is emphasized by a report of the London Daily Express of the 22d that Lord Kitchener has cabled an urgent demand to the British war office for more trained mounted troops.

Curiously enough the Americans in the Philippines, like the British in South Africa, are also driven to increase their army of occupation. According to the latest dispatches from Washington, it is admitted at the war department that not less than 10,000 soldiers will probably be sent to the Philippines before the close of the year. The official dream of "pacification" seems to have ended in nightmare. And there is reason for it. News readers will recall the disaster of a few weeks ago at Balangiga, on the island of Samar (p. 410), and the stubborn fight reported last week (p. 441) at Batangas, on the island of Luzon. Another fight on the island of Samar, at Bangajon, on the Gandora river, took place on the 16th, in which a garrison of 46 men of Co. E of the 9th regiment was engaged. Gen. Chaffee reports that 400 Filipinos, armed only with bolos, attacked the garrison, losing 81 of their number in killed. They were beaten off, but at a loss to the Americans of 10 killed and 6 wounded.

Another surprise in Samar is reported to have been frustrated by the secret service department. That it was the secret service department, however, that frustrated the plot discredits the report, for secret service departments are notorious for discovering plots where novelists do—in the recesses of their own imaginations.

But of the revival of Filipino resistance to the American occupation there is no longer room for doubt. Besides the three fights already mentioned, this disappointing condition is certified to, with reference to the island of Samar, by Rear Admiral