

oppressive weight of military taxation is so great as to fill with alarm the minds of the monarchs and potentates themselves. And so forth.

This sort of evidence is frequently adduced to show that Cobden was a false prophet, that his standard was a vulgar and unsound one, the result of an imperfect knowledge of human nature, and that the future commercial policy of nations must, as in the past, be determined by expediency—that is, upon the judgment of governments as to whether in any given case the simple formula of buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest market, irrespective of political boundaries, is to be applied. But to say that the world has not adopted Cobden's advice is not to prove that advice unsound any more than the fact that the world has not followed Christ's teaching thereby proves Christ's doctrine unsound.

Suppose other nations had their Cobdens; suppose public opinion were as well enlightened in, say France and Germany, as it was in England, and the war of 1870-71 had not occurred,—that war which gave such a fatal impulse to militarism and compelled the adoption of the subterfuge of "protection" as the smoothest way of robbing the wage-earners to pay the idle soldiers; suppose free trade had been given a trial by these three nations during the last few decades. What a happy Europe there would be compared with what we now see! It was militarism that checked free trade and prevented the realization of Cobden's dream. Militarism and protection go together.

Cobden had the exaggerated fancy of the zealous reformer, but beneath it lay an indisputable mathematical proposition. As it is safe to bet that under any conceivable circumstances two and two will make four, so it is safe to conclude that nations, which are only numbers of individuals, will be acting in their own best interests by exchanging their commodities freely with each other, and that the wider the area within which freedom of trade is allowed to operate, the more advantageous it will be for all within the area. Even protectionist nations understand this. Their actions in this respect speak plainer than their words. Do they not, while refusing to trade with their neighbors, still make foreign conquests in the interests of trade extension? Only instead of suiting their products to their customers, they too often force their customers at the point of the

bayonet to buy the products they have.

T. SCANLON.

## NEWS

At last the British war in South Africa has come to a definite end, a peace agreement having been signed at Pretoria on the 31st of May.

At the time of our last previous reference to this war (p. 55) news had stopped. There were no reports either of fighting or of peace making. But peace negotiations were then known (p. 41) to be under way, and the details have since been officially disclosed by the British government. They may now be recited as the events occurred. In consequence of the correspondence between Great Britain and the Netherlands (vol. iv. p. 694), in which the Netherlands undertook to act as an intermediary for peace, Gen. Schalk Burger, vice president (and in Mr. Kruger's absence acting president) of the South African Republic, informed Lord Kitchener of his desire to make peace proposals. This was on the 12th of March. The conference with Lord Kitchener, heretofore reported in these columns (vol. iv. p. 808) resulted. It took place at Pretoria, as then stated, on the 23d of March, and was attended in behalf of the Boers by Schalk Burger, Botha and Reitz. Arrangements were there made for a meeting of these leaders with Steyn, De Wet and Delarey, of the Orange Free State, which came off on the 12th of April. At that meeting the Boers proposed terms which Lord Kitchener forwarded to London. The British government rejected them because they contemplated the independence of the republics. The Boer leaders then protested that they were incompetent to surrender the independence of their country, but offered to submit the proposition to their people if Great Britain would state the terms which subsequent to relinquishment of independence she would grant. Out of the replies to this offer came a representative conference or assembly of the Boers at Vereeniging. It met on the 15th of May, and on the 17th appointed a commission, with plenary powers, consisting of Louis Botha, Christian De Wet, Hertzog, Delarey and Smuts, to confer with Kitchener. The conference took place at Pretoria on the 19th, when the commission of-

ferred to surrender independence as to foreign relations, retaining self-government under British supervision, and to make over absolutely part of the territory of the two republics. This offer was refused by Gen. Kitchener and Lord Milner, the British lord high commissioner for South Africa, who was present; and Lord Milner prepared a document for submission to the Vereeniging conference for a yes or no vote to be taken not later than the 31st. This document, having first been approved by the British ministry, with some minor amendments, was communicated to the Boer commissioners on the 28th, and by them submitted to the Vereeniging conference, which adopted it on the 31st by a vote of 54 to 6. It was formally signed late at night of the same day at Pretoria.

The document referred to defined the terms of peace. In substance it provides:

1. The Boers are to surrender all arms and ammunition under their control, and acknowledge King Edward VII. as their lawful sovereign; the details of surrender to be managed by Kitchener for the British and Botha, De Larey and De Wet for the Boers.

2. Exiles and prisoners of war are to be transported by the British back to their homes as soon as transportation can be provided, upon their declaring their acceptance of the status of subjects of King Edward VII.

3. Persons so returning are to be secure in person and property.

4. No proceeding, civil or criminal, is to be taken against them, or any Boers surrendering, for any acts in connection with the war, except in certain specified cases involving conduct contrary to the usages of war, which are to be tried by court martial after the cessation of hostilities.

5. The Dutch language is to be taught in the public schools of the former republics (now the Transvaal and Orange River Colony) when parents desire it. It is also to be allowed in the law courts.

6. Persons needing rifles for protection in either colony are to be allowed them only on taking out a license.

7. Civil government is to be established in the colonies by the British as early as possible, and representative institutions leading to self-government are to be introduced as soon as circumstances permit.

8. The question of giving voting rights to native races is not to be decided until after self-government is established.

9. No special land tax is to be imposed to defray the expenses of the war.

10. The British are to provide for the restoration of the people to their homes and for supplying them with indispensable seed, stock, implements, etc.; also to pay war losses of individuals incurred under the laws of the South African Republic to the extent of \$15,000,000, in addition to lending to individuals to an unspecified amount at 3 per cent. interest.

The foregoing agreement is signed in behalf of the British by Lord Milner as high commissioner; in behalf of the South African Republic by Gen. Schalk Burger as vice president acting as president, Gen. Reitz as state secretary, and Gen. Botha as commander-in-chief; and in behalf of the Orange Free State by Gen. De Wet as acting president in place of President Steyn (the latter being ill and having appointed De Wet to act for him), Gen. Bremner, Judge Hertzog and Delarey.

No provision regarding the Boer allies of Cape Colony and Natal was made in these terms of settlement, but at the time of handing the document to the Boer commissioners for submission to the Vereeniging conference, Lord Milner read a statement, of which he gave them a copy, to the effect that—

the treatment of Cape Colony and Natal colonists who joined the Boers in the war will be determined, if they return to their own colonies, by the colonial governments; and as to Cape Colony that the government there agrees that the rank and file who surrender, and before a magistrate acknowledge themselves guilty of high treason, shall be punished only by denial for life of registration as voters, provided they have not been guilty of murder or acts contrary to the usages of civilized warfare; and that those holding official positions may be tried for high treason and punished at discretion provided that the death penalty shall not be inflicted.

Thus ends the British war in South Africa, reports of which have appeared regularly in these columns, from time to time, as the facts were disclosed through the daily press. By utilizing the reference pagings, inserted in most of the items, to trace them back from the last to the first, the reader may begin with the Cape Colony elections of 1898 (vol. i. No. 21, p. 10) and without further search follow the story of the war, told as it progressed, in a continuous serial narrative down to its close. In recognition of Lord Kitchener's services the king requests parliament to enable

him to grant Kitchener \$250,000. The Irish members announce their intention of opposing the grant at every stage.

The passage by the United States Senate of the Philippine civil government bill comes hard upon the heels of the South African treaty of peace, this bill having after prolonged debate been passed on the 3d. It was reported favorably on the 31st of March by the Senate committee on the Philippines, of which Mr. Lodge is chairman. The bill is very long, and is designed to be temporary in operation. It sanctions the existing American government in the Philippines, set up by the President; it provides for a census, as soon as peace shall have been established, with a view to organizing a permanent representative government; it authorizes the commission to lease and alienate the public lands; it authorizes it to grant franchises; and it provides for coinage and banking, with the silver standard. The bill makes no intimation of the intention of the United States with reference to the future of the islands. Consequently the minority of the committee recommended a substitute looking to the ultimate recognition of the Philippines after the manner of the organization and recognition of the Republic of Cuba. When the question came to a vote on the 3d, the majority of the committee had already caused the bill of rights of the United States constitution, except the clauses relative to juries and the bearing of arms, to be inserted in the bill; and several proposed amendments were voted on prior to the submission of the main question. One of these would have admitted Philippine products into the United States at 50 per cent. of regular customs duties. It was rejected. The substitute was also voted down. Morgan, of Alabama, and McLaurin, of South Carolina, Democrats, voted against the substitute and with the Republicans; while Hoar, of Massachusetts, and Wellington, of Maryland, Republicans, voted for it and with the Democrats. Mason, of Illinois, refused to vote either way on any of the amendments. On the final vote, that on the passage of the bill, the only Democrat to vote with the Republicans was McLaurin, of South Carolina. Hoar, Wellington and Mason voted with the Democrats in the negative. With these exceptions the bill passed by a strict party vote, the

affirmative vote being 48 and the negative 30. The bill is now in the House, where it is expected to come in conflict with the measure approved by the Republican committee of that body.

Upon the eve of the vote upon the Philippine bill in the Senate the war department announced that the effective strength of the army in the Philippines will be reduced in less than two months to 25,000 men. Already orders had been issued reducing the army as a whole from 77,287 to 66,497.

On the subject of labor strikes in the United States, to which considerable space was devoted last week (p. 119), there are several important facts to report.

The anthracite coal strike (p. 119) was strengthened on the 2d by the accession of from 75 to 80 per cent. of the men engaged in pumping out the mines to save them from destruction by water; and in support of the employers a large body of "coal and iron police," a private armed force, hired and controlled by the coal combinations, has been sent out to patrol the coal fields. The professed object of this movement is to prevent disorder and protect property from violence; though the strike leaders assert that there is no danger of violence and that the real object of privately policing the country is to incite individual strikers to breaches of the law.

In the tugmen's strike on the great lakes (p. 119), summonses have been issued by the steamboat inspectors at Chicago against the licensed tugmen who refuse to work on boats of the towing trust, but nothing further of interest is reported.

The Chicago street car strike, which seemed imminent last week (p. 119), has been settled, as rumor then had it. The settlement, effected through the mediation of Franklin MacVeagh, as a member of the arbitration tribunal of the National Civic Federation, secures all that the employes demanded. It is to hold for one year, and guarantees that—

1. The companies (the Consolidated Traction Co., the Union Traction Co., and the Chicago General Street Railway Co.) withdraw all opposition to the organization of their employes into the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employes of America.