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It appears from the reports of the British press regarding British war office contracts that Joe Chamberlain has a brother whose name ought to be Abner.

In their published interviews, Mr. McKinley's supporters express their disapproval of the Kansas City platform and nominations with welcome unanimity.

The prosperity touter finds his occupation an onerous one. All his whistling is up the wind. This is because the public is beginning to realize that there is no prosperity and has been none except for the beneficiaries of special privileges.

What a satire upon liberty it must have been, that Fourth of July celebration at Manila. Flags were displayed, patriotic songs were sung, and patriotic speeches were delivered. Even the declaration of independence was read. And that part of it, too, which asserts that government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed!

Dispatches from the Transvaal say that Lord Roberts is distributing seed to the impoverished Boer farmers. This will doubtless be cited as an instance of magnanimity on the part of a victor. It is a very queer sort of magnanimity that robs a people of independence and then offers them seed-corn. But then it is so much easier and pleasanter to be "magnanimous" and "generous" and "benevolent" than to be plainly and simply just.

If the making of unnecessary noise

in public places is a characteristic of savagery, as has been plausibly argued, then Chicago is about to take a step in the direction of civilization. The corporation counsel has drawn an ordinance forbidding all needless noises within the city limits. Should this ordinance be adopted and enforced, there would be no more shouting of wares for sale in the early morning or late evening, no more creaking wheels making excruciating music upon the streets, no more jangling of loosely loaded iron rails upon trucks, no more yelling and whooping and screaming at midnight with intent to notify sleeping people that the disturbers are still awake. It is to be hoped that the ordinance may pass, and that it may be followed by a wider extension of noiseless pavements and the general adoption of rubber tires for vehicles. But as the mayor proclaims his preference for street noises, as testimonials to the urban character of Chicago, this is too much to hope for.

The seriousness of the situation, both in the Philippines and in South Africa, may be better inferred from what the American and the British generals, respectively, say of the possibility of sparing men for China, than from the censored reports of the progress they are making. Lord Roberts assures the British war department that he cannot possibly spare 10,000 men from the seat of war in South Africa, and Gen. MacArthur is equally sure that he cannot spare more than the regiment which has already been taken from him in the Philippines. If the little brown men of the Philippine archipelago and the Boers of South Africa, even after they are defeated, can thus monopolize the attention of over a quarter of a million soldiers, what hope is there for the armies of Europe

in a country like China, with its 400,000,000 outraged and angered population?

Why shouldn't the United States look with favor upon the Swiss agitation for annexation? Time was when the great distance of Switzerland from this country, and the fact that it is neither part of the American continent nor an adjacent island, would have been a conclusive objection. But that objection loses its force, now that we seek to annex territory which is separated from the continent by leagues upon leagues of ocean. Every possible objection that would apply to the annexation of Switzerland applies to the annexation of the Philippines; and there are circumstances besides, that make the annexation of Switzerland comparatively desirable. For one thing, Switzerland, if she adopted the Swiss proposal of annexation, would not have to be conquered. For another, she could be at once admitted as a state in the union. Though this would be expansion, it would not be imperialism. Of course, we might have to fight her European neighbors; but from the Rooseveltian point of view, that would be a favorable consideration. War with European powers would foster the strenuous life among our young men much better than the slaughter of little brown fellows like rabbits in a corral.

The notorious "Tammany hall" in New York, under the boss-ship of Richard Croker, is dishonored with a weak imitation in the "City hall" of Chicago, under the boss-ship of Carter Harrison. Neither of these political combines cares a picayune for political principle. Each is in very truth an organized appetite. Local office spoils, city contracts, and other money-making advantages of polit-