

# The Public

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The latest effort of Lord Roberts to capture 4,000 Boers with 40,000 British troops is not the brilliant success it was expected to be.

When the Whitneys and the Wideners and the Elkinse organize an \$8,000,000 company to develop Cuba, as it is reported they have done, it is time for the Cubans to begin to calculate upon how much of Cuba will be left to them in the round-up.

One of the bloodiest weeks of the Philippine war since the first, says the Associated Press, was that which closed on the 21st of this month. It estimated that at least 1,000 Filipinos had been killed. The American loss was much less, as it had always been; but comparatively small as it was, the wounded numbered 16 and the killed nine. Yet this bloody week is well on in the fifth month of that pacification which Gen. Otis reported at the opening of congress. The best information from the Philippines, corroborated by such bloody testimony as this, goes to show that those islands are no nearer pacification than they have been at any time since the people awoke to the wretched fraud that had been perpetrated upon them under the shadow of the American flag. They have never yet been pacified, nor will they be by President McKinley's murderous methods. Those people have drunk in the words of our own Patrick Henry. They demand liberty or death. And they are proving that to them this is not mere Fourth of July rhetoric.

Kate Kane Rossi, an Illinois lawyer, won laurels last week at the Chi-

cago bar, which are none the less green because it was the bar of a justice of the peace and his jury. In defending a woman charged with vagrancy, Mrs. Rossi made the impressive point that a woman cannot be a vagrant. Her reason was that woman is not made to work. And she pressed this point home with such legal learning, force, eloquence and good sense that, though she did not convince the justice, she did convince his jury. The jury concluded unanimously that under a statute defining a vagrant as "any person who is idle, remains idle, and refuses to work," a woman cannot be convicted, since it is a woman's prerogative, in accordance with the principles of our civilization, to be idle, remain idle, and refuse to work, if she wants to.

The protection instinct is strong in the selfish man. Here are a parcel of merchants in suburban Chicago towns who have actually asked the railroads to increase their rates of fare, so as to compel the people of those towns to buy of those merchants instead of buying in Chicago, where they want to buy. It is a neat substitute for a protective tariff. American manufacturers, afraid that their fellow citizens will buy foreign goods, get congress to impose taxes on foreign goods so as to make them dear. But city councils cannot levy protective tariffs in the interest of local merchants. So the local merchants ask the railroads to do it. This action of the merchants we have referred to reduces the protection theory to the level of the absurd. Yet it in no wise libels the theory.

Readers of South American news must have observed that Brazil has an "uitlander" question. The "uitlanders" there are Germans. They were invited to come to Brazil and their

section has grown to be the wealthiest in the republic; yet Brazil tramples upon their rights by forbidding their flying of the German flag. The fact is that Brazil is afraid of them, just as the Boers were afraid of their "uitlanders." Not so much afraid of them, either; but afraid that the German empire, following the South African example of the British empire, may make their cause an excuse for conquest. Should Germany do this, the attitude of the American government as now constituted would border on the picturesque. A supporter of Great Britain in her raid upon the Boers, and itself a freebooter with a Spanish commission in the Philippines, this government couldn't very well "sass back" when Germany reminded it that the Monroe doctrine is obsolete. Nor is it probable that Brazil herself would welcome American intervention, after having observed the kind of appetite which intervention stimulates in Mr. McKinley's Uncle Sam. Since our humanitarian intervention between Spain and Cuba we have lost some of our good reputation among the weaker peoples of the earth.

In his speech before the Ohio republican convention this week, Senator Hanna made this observation:

The balance of net trade in favor of the United States during the last century preceding this administration amounted to \$311,000,000. In 100 years that was the net balance to the credit of the United States in our trade with the world. In three years of the administration of President William McKinley the net balance as shown by the books of the United States treasury is \$1,400,000,000. It is \$1,100,000,000 more accomplished in those three years than had been accomplished in 100 years preceding.

And then Mr. Hanna asked:

Looking into the face of such results, do we want a change?

If such figures were laid before Mr.