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The Transvaal peace envoys now in Europe deny that the Transvaal forced the war upon England, and propose to prove it. Proof from them is hardly necessary. It is proved by the official dispatches published in British blue books.

From Cleveland it is reported that a manufacturing company there has been importing machinists from New York to break a nine-hour strike. The report states that there are 4,000 or 5,000 idle machinists in New York—"men who cannot get anything to do, for lack of work." What has become of all the bounding prosperity in the machinist's trade in New York of which we had such glowing reports a few months ago?

President McKinley has signed the Puerto Rican government bill, which imposes a customs tariff upon the commerce of Puerto Rico with the states. Less than five months ago, in his message to congress he said it was the "plain duty" of this country to establish free trade with Puerto Rico. Why, then, did he sign the tariff measure? Has he changed his mind? He does not say so. Have the conditions changed? Not in the slightest. Has he violated a plain duty? It looks like it.

Senator Morgan appears to have triumphed for reelection as senator from Alabama over Gov. Johnston. In Alabama only democrats—those who label themselves so—have much to say about elections to office. Consequently it is the democratic primaries instead of the official elections

that determine results. These were held, on the 14th, after a campaign within the party, which had been in progress for some weeks. The object of the primaries was the nomination of candidates for the legislature; and the burning issue of the campaign was Morgan or Johnston for senator. By the latest reports Morgan will probably have 116 out of the 120 democratic votes in the next legislature. This is a great republican triumph. Though Morgan is not nominally a republican, and as a declared republican could not possibly be elected to the senate from Alabama, he is one of the Hanna-McKinley representatives in the democratic party. His triumph, therefore, is a Hanna-McKinley victory, of even greater importance in the long run than the election of an Alabama republican would be.

Americanism is becoming worthily distinctive in these days when Anglo-Saxonism is off man-hunting in the Philippines and South Africa. And no one has more happily phrased the distinction than William J. Bryan. In one of the speeches of his recent triumphal tour of the Pacific Coast, Mr. Bryan said:

Anglo-Saxon civilization has taught man to look after his own rights. American civilization will teach him to respect the rights of others. The Anglo-Saxon civilization has taught the individual to take care of himself, while the American civilization has taught the individual that he can best preserve his own rights by recognizing the commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

If the republican measures in congress for the suppression of trusts were conceived in good faith, they would be harbingers of danger to democratic institutions. But they are introduced only for the purpose of supplying Hanna-McKinley stump speakers with talking material for the

campaign. These speakers can read the anti-trust resolutions which their party proposes, and with dramatic gesture exclaim: "Behold how our party would crush the monstrous trusts!" But after the election, if it "went right" the measures would be pigeon-holed until the next one. For that reason we need have no fears of the adoption of a constitutional amendment such as the republicans propose, which would practically subject all the private business of the country to congressional legislation and cap the very climax of centralization of power in the general government.

It is not possible at present for an outsider to tell whether the shut down of the steel and wire trust is a stock jobbing operation or a shrewd move in anticipation of the inevitable. It is not unlikely both. There is no doubt that trust managers depend upon stock jobbing. They can afford to keep their businesses going at a loss and even to pay dividends now and then without earning them, by having recourse to the profits they make in buying their own stock upon the street when they intend to send it up and selling it when they intend to force it down. Thus the "lambs" may be made to keep trusts going when the legitimate business of the trust will not. This may be the meaning of the steel and wire shut down. There are certainly reasons for supposing that the shut down is not unrelated to a ruinous falling off of demand in consequence of the exorbitant prices to which the trust has marked up its goods. That farmers have greatly cut down their purchases of wire fencing every observer knows. This is one fact which, together with facts of like character, indicates that the steel and wire trust has reached the limit of its power for the present.