

The capture of Methuen and his forces was, indeed, a great victory. It would be well if the British ministry would consent to a settlement of this war before more precious blood on both sides has been shed. But it cannot be expected that the British ministry will consent to peace, and in that view we think it safe to say that the overwhelming majority of the American people will be delighted to learn of Boer victories even greater than that won over the forces under Methuen.

In his speech on the ship subsidy bill, Mr. Hanna says: "Personal contact is what brings results." The Chicago News takes this as a text for an instructive cartoon. Uncle Sam is represented in the foreground holding up his hands while the beneficiaries of the ship subsidy are represented by a person very much resembling Mr. Hanna whose hand is raking in the shekels from Uncle Sam's pocket into an enormous sack labeled \$180,000,000 ship subsidy bill. The cartoon is complete so far as description is concerned.

The last words of John P. Altgeld should provide great encouragement to those who battle for right principles. Governor Altgeld's last words were: "I am not discouraged. Things will right themselves. A pendulum swings one way and then another, but the steady pull of gravitation is toward the centre of the earth. Any structure must be plumb if it is to endure. So it is with nations. Wrong may seem to triumph; right may seem to be defeated; but the gravitation of eternal justice is upward toward the throne of God. Any political institution, if it is to endure, must be plumb with that line of justice."

After all the noise that has been made, by those who really oppose the construction of any canal at all, against the Nicaraguan route, the senate committee by a vote of 7 to 4 has reported in favor of the Hepburn bill, providing for the construction of a canal by the Nicaraguan route. The four members voting against the report were Messrs. Hanna, Pritchard, Millard and Kittredge. It need not be expected that the opponents of an isthmian canal will abandon their vigorous and ingenious opposition to the measure. But it is to be hoped that senators who are really anxious to comply with the popular desire will permit no further unnecessary delay in this matter.

In a speech in the house, Mr. Hitt of Illinois said that international law must be strictly adhered to and that neutrality must be observed with relation to the South African war. In his conference with the Boer envoys, Secretary of State Hay said that the United States was determined to maintain a "strictly neutral" attitude, and therefore could give no encouragement to the Boers. The Boer envoys have explained in a statement printed in the daily newspapers that they do not ask nor desire intervention. They do ask, however, for neutrality. Would it not be well for the administration to become really neutral. This government is not neutral while it is permitting Great Britain to use United States ports for the shipment of horses and mules for use in the South African war. And now it is apparent that the British ministry proposes to use the fact that President Roosevelt has sent special representatives to participate in the coronation ceremonies of the king as an indication that the sympathy of the United States is with Great Britain in this

war. It must be evident to any intelligent man that the participation of these special representatives in these ceremonies is, under the circumstances, a distinct breach of neutrality. The state department under Secretary Hay is very careful not to do anything to give the British ministry offense. Why should the state department not be a little more careful not to give offense to the republics of South Africa? If the simple request to the British minister that Dr. Thomas be permitted to go to the concentration camps on a mission of mercy would be a "remissness of neutrality," why is not the selection of special representatives to participate in the coronation ceremonies of the king also a "remissness of neutrality."

Speaking recently to the shareholders of Lloyd's bank in London, Sir Spencer Phillips said: "Who would have thought when we met in 1900, when the country was just emerging from the critical stages of the war, and fancied it saw the end approaching, that two years thence it would still be dragging on? Who would have thought that consols, which stood at 98½, a drop of 13 from what they stood at exactly twelve months previously—they had even been higher than that—could possibly fall to 91, the point at which they stood in November last? Or who would have thought the cost of the war would amount, as it assuredly will, to one-third as much again as the whole sum of one hundred and fifty-three millions, which was paid off the national debt during the sixty-three years of her late majesty's reign?" Mr. Phillips might have known that the British would not have a walkaway when Paul Kruger announced that if England won it would be at a cost that would stagger humanity.

In his speech in the senate, Senator Hoar declared he had received many requests asking him to support the proposition relating to the election of senators by the people. But Senator Hoar said that these requests bore the earmarks of "worked up sentiment." Senator Hoar should know that it is a very difficult matter to "work up sentiment" where sentiment does not really exist; and he should not forget that when he declared that the sentiment of the American people is opposed to the policy of imperialism, he was met with the charge that the letters and petitions which served as testimony on that line in support of his claim bore the earmarks of "worked up sentiment." But if Senator Hoar really has any doubt as to the sentiment of the people upon the question of election of Senators, he would obtain valuable information by consulting the daily newspapers of the country. We think it safe to say that four-fifths of the metropolitan newspapers are favorable to a constitutional amendment providing for the election of senators by the people, and this includes republican newspapers as well as newspapers of other parties. The weeklies are practically unanimous for it.

The splendid victory of the Boer forces, under the command of General Delarey, over the British forces under the command of General Methuen is reviving, in the breast of those who sympathize with the brave Dutchmen of the Transvaal and hope that, after all, victory may be theirs. A cablegram from London says that it is greatly feared among Englishmen that "as a measure of retaliation for the shooting and hanging of Boer prisoners, De Wet and Steyn may be tempted to do away with their distinguished prisoner." A more gratifying statement, however, is that appearing in the same cablegram that "pro-Boers scout this idea." It is to be hoped that the Boers will not imitate the

bad example set by the British with relation to Commandant Scheepers. The very general sympathy which the Boers have, at least among the people of the United States, depends upon the righteousness of their cause, and that sympathy will be increased if they adhere to humane methods. The reliable information so far received concerning the methods of the Boers justifies the hope that General Methuen, as well as all other British prisoners, will be well treated. Doubtless the Boers will be quite willing to exchange General Methuen for General Cronje, the latter now being a prisoner at St. Helena; but it is doubtful if Great Britain would be willing to make the exchange. The Boers would have considerable more to gain by a surrender of Methuen, if by the surrender they could recover the capable services of Cronje, than they would by keeping Methuen from the battle field.

Later—After the above was written General Methuen was surrendered and no exchange demanded. The Boers, it seems, were more generous than even their friends expected. Good for the Boers.

One of Senator Hoar's objections to the proposition that senators be elected by the people is that such a plan would remove the senate from its present position of independence from the influence of popular movements. Another objection made by Senator Hoar is that the principle of equality of state representation would be affected if senators were elected by the people rather than by the legislature. The Chicago Record-Herald, a republican paper, replying to Senator Hoar, points out that the equality of state representation in the senate would not in the least be disturbed by changing the method of the selection of the senator. The Record-Herald declares that "the greatest security of the senate against gusts of popular passion is the length of his term;" but the Record-Herald warns Senator Hoar that even though senators oppose this plan they should at least be willing for it to be debated in the senate. Those senators who seem inclined to prevent debate and obstruct the measure in the senate are reminded by the Record-Herald that "they have played the part of obstructionists too long to resent with good grace any suggestion that the resolution should be given a chance;" and the further information is volunteered "by continuing to sit on this discussion senators like Mr. Hoar are riding for an explosion." Senator Hoar will have no difficulty in understanding where the Chicago Record-Herald stands on this proposition, and if he will take the trouble to make an inquiry he will discover that a very large majority of newspapers are in line with the Record-Herald concerning the method of choosing United States senators.

The Northern Securities company has a few able attorneys retained. And a careful study of railway history will reveal the fact that the railroads have also a few federal judges on the list. There is the federal judge who enjoined railroad employes from quitting work, the federal judge who enjoined a minister from praying with striking workmen, and the federal judge who enjoined employes from asking for an increase in wages.

The St. Paul Globe says: "There is no reason why David B. Hill should not give his views as to the next democratic national platform—nor why any other democrat should not." Certainly not. But has the Globe noted the fact that the "democrats" who are talking loudest about the next democratic platform are the ones who refused to support the last democratic platform?

Since the American mules have twice aided the Boers by stampeding the British army, we may expect Mr. Roosevelt to claim that he is really helping the Boers when he allows the English army officers to buy mules in the United States.