

The Houston Post throws a bit of light on the magnitude of the South African war when it points out that the British government was never able to give the Duke of Wellington the support of more than sixty to seventy thousand men, and that fifty-two thousand men was the greatest number of British troops in the Crimea; while the present British secretary of war states that the army of British fighting men now maintained in South Africa is 230,000 men.

An  
Enormous  
Army.

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Chronicle says: "It is regarded as certain that the president will advise tariff revision at the short session which begins next December, and if no action is taken at that time he will call congress together in the summer of 1903 for the express purpose of carrying out his ideas in the matter." Why does Mr. Roosevelt wait until the December session? Can it be possible that his professed leaning toward tariff revision is for campaign purposes only?

Why Not  
Do It  
Now.

On April 7, 1871, the late Senator Morrill of Vermont spoke in opposition to the proposed annexation of San Domingo. In this speech Senator Morrill said: "The wise founders of our republic contemplated a simple form of government, one imposing the smallest possible burdens upon which it would be wholly incompatible to engraft a system of colonies or outlying dependencies. . . . Jefferson never sought to colonize or to annex distant islands. He sought to make bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh the great delta of the Mississippi. The United States should have too much self-respect to accept of any annexation save such as would add political and moral strength to her free institutions, wisdom to her councils, and buttresses to her constitution."

A Simple  
Form of  
Government.

The Chicago Tribune, referring to the complaint against the beef trust because of the advance in beef prices, and also pointing out that the failure of the corn crop has something to do with this increase, says that if blame must be attached to somebody for present high prices, "Let it be Providence, not the packers." The republican organs have generally insisted upon credit being bestowed upon the republican party for good crops. It seems hardly fair for the blame in this particular case to be shifted. If we are to give the republican party credit for the good crops, why not hold it responsible for crop failures? The Tribune will, however, have difficulty in placing the blame upon Providence for present high prices of beef, so long as there are any considerable number of people having sufficient discernment to recognize the enormous power and influence of the beef trust.

Shifting  
the  
Blame.

The tremendous sacrifices made in blood and treasure by the empire in its effort to subjugate a pair of tiny republics is strikingly presented by the Philadelphia Ledger, when it points out, "When the first call for money and men was made in England with which to prosecute the Boer war in 1899, the sum of \$49,000,000 was asked for, and it was believed by the blind jingoes that the Dutch republic could be extinguished in four months by an army of 47,000 men. The last demand for money in the past year was for the sum of \$273,743,000, and parliament has appropriated, altogether, \$704,948,300 for the conquest of the Boers. By the end of the present month, which is the

Yet the  
Contest is  
Not Ended.

end of the British fiscal year, the total cost of the war will reach at least \$844,000,000. The war is in its fourth year, and, instead of 47,000 men, the British force in South Africa at the last report numbered 237,000 men. The average during active operations has been in the neighborhood of 200,000, and the British have lost by death or permanent disability over 25,000 men, while the total of British casualties, including the surviving wounded, numbers 100,701 men and 5,240 officers. This is a tremendous sacrifice to make in blood and treasure, and the contest is not ended." The Ledger might have added that besides all this treasure, the empire has had the practical and encouragement of the greatest republic on earth—and even yet "the contest is not ended."

The republican congressional committee has chosen Congressman Babcock of Wisconsin as its chairman. Congressman Babcock is the gentleman who, for the last six months, promised the American people that he would insist upon a reduction or an abolition of the tariff duties on trust products. It seems, however, that recently Mr. Babcock has grown very mild in his assaults upon the tariff barons, and newspaper dispatches have been predicting that he would be re-elected as chairman of the republican congressional committee as a sort of reward for his silence. While it would not do to say that this honor to Mr. Babcock is in shape of a reward for silence, it is not too much to say that if Mr. Babcock does not make a vigorous fight for a reduction or abolition of the tariff on trust made articles, the intelligent men and women of America will understand that his re-election to the head of the congressional committee was in fact nothing more nor less than a reward for a change of front.

Mr.  
Babcock  
Rewarded.

In a speech delivered in the house March 31. Representative Bell of Colorado said: "As a deliberate body, the house has ceased to exist. It is absolutely controlled now by a few men. The greatest trust in the country today is the legislative trust."

A  
Stern  
Arraignment.

In this accusation Mr. Bell simply repeated the charge that has been made against the republican house by a number of republican newspapers, a charge indeed that need not formally be presented, because the fact is patent to every one that the house of representatives under republican rule long ago ceased to be a deliberative body and is in fact controlled by a few men, these few men being in turn controlled by the representatives of selfish interests. The fact that there is no republican member who would seriously undertake to deny Mr. Bell's charge should furnish food for thought among the rank and file of republicans. These must know that popular government cannot long exist when the house ceases to be representative of the popular will.

A Washington dispatch to the New York World says: "President Roosevelt has ordered from a press clipping bureau everything printed pertaining to the Roosevelt-Miles-Root incident. He has these comments of the newspapers of the country laid upon his desk, and carefully reads every line. He wants to know exactly the attitude of the public toward General Miles. Both Roosevelt and Root would like to have a new man at the head of the army, but the president appreciates that he cannot go contrary to the public sentiment without jeopardizing his own interests. Thus far the press comments have not been pleasing to the president. What has become of Mr. Roosevelt, the strenuous? Has he completely disappeared in Mr. Roosevelt, the politician? Is it possible

Can  
It be  
Possible?

that Mr. Roosevelt would think of retiring General Miles unless his retirement was for the good of the service? And if the retirement of General Miles would be good for the service, would Mr. Roosevelt be restrained because of public sentiment, or because of any consideration for Mr. Roosevelt's political interests? Can it be possible that Mr. Roosevelt is anxious to succeed himself in the White House, and that, being anxious so to do, he will be restrained from doing what he would most like to do through fear of political results?

The New York World says that if David B. Hill shall be restored to the leadership of the New York democracy "the poor old party that has been floundering leaderless through the Slough of Despond for the last six years, fed chiefly on west wind and rainbow dust, will have a mighty good chance to recover its footing and put up a hopeful fight for the control of the next house." The World has been an ardent champion of the single gold standard, and it has insisted that bimetalism be abandoned. And yet the man to whom the World points as the hope of the democratic party has proposed for a plank in the democratic platform "a simple declaration in favor of the general principle of bimetalism." If bimetalism is dead, if its adherents are visionaries, what hope can the democratic party of New York possibly have in the leadership of a man who wants to insert in the democratic platform "a simple declaration in favor of the general principle of bimetalism." Do the World and Mr. Hill understand each other? The World should publish the election returns of 1894 when Mr. Hill lost New York by more than 150,000 and when Mr. Cleveland's administration received a more crushing defeat than any other administration has suffered since the civil war.

New York  
World Endorses  
Hill.

One interesting feature of the ship subsidy bill is the material increase in rates paid for the carrying of mails on American vessels. The Chicago Tribune, a republican paper, points out that the chief beneficiary of this increase will be the International Navigation company. Under this bill this company would receive about 73 per cent of the postal subsidies on the Atlantic ocean. Under the present contract that company is paid at a rate about three times as high as that paid to other steamship lines doing the same kind of work. The present contract with this company expires in 1905. The Tribune points out that railroads are paid for carrying mail on the basis of service actually rendered, according to the weight of the mail. Foreign steamships carrying the mail under a foreign flag are paid on the same basis. The Cunard line, for instance, is paid a rate of 44 cents a pound for letters; but the American line is paid, not for service rendered, but according to speed and tonnage of the vessels carrying the mail. A 20-knot vessel like the New York receives \$4 per mile, no matter how small the mail it may carry. The Tribune points out that it is now proposed to raise the rate to \$4.70 per mile and that under the subsidy bill the St. Louis or the St. Paul will get for a trip to Southampton \$19,881, where it now receives \$14,564. The Tribune says that the American line was paid last year \$750,000 and that if the ship subsidy bill were to become a law, "this favored line would receive, according to some authorities, about \$1,414,000 per year in postal mail subsidies alone." With a fine show of sarcasm, the Tribune adds: "This is the kind of legislation which the advocates of the ship subsidy bill are pleased to call legislation for the benefit of the people." But the Tribune overlooks the claim that such things as these are essential to the "business interests" of the country.

But Think  
of the Business  
Interests.