

The Houston Post lays itself open to the charge of lese majeste by suggesting a very plausible explanation for recent proceedings when it says: "Does it not look like the administration and trusts wants to be able to say to the people, 'See, we have prosecuted the beef trust,' and to the beef trust, 'See, we have postponed the case till after the elections, and if you put up for the campaign fund like good republicans we will drop the case when the elections are once safely over?'"

It is now announced that Mr. Roosevelt will call an extra session of the senate on November 11 to ratify a reciprocity treaty with Cuba, and also a treaty which will embody the essential features of the Platt amendment. It is also promised that there will be a bit of tariff revision after the elections. The elections will take place prior to November 11. It is significant that every hope held out by republican leaders depends upon what the party will do "after the election."

It is reported that Queen Alexandria upon greeting General Kitchener after his return from South Africa told him that there was one thing necessary to make him everything that could be desired. Kitchener asked what that was. The queen replied: "A clever, handsome wife." To this Kitchener rejoined: "That is a defect capable of being remedied." This was good advice and if Kitchener is as level-headed a man as he is a capable soldier, he will act upon it at the proper time.

In a speech delivered at Chautauqua, N. Y., August 11, Congressman Grosvenor of Ohio pointed to the fact that he spoke and voted repeatedly against the Teller resolution declaring that our purpose in the war was not aggrandizement and that we did not want any territory. Mr. Grosvenor said: "I did, and I had Cuba in mind. I believed then, and I believe now, that she is too near and presents too great possibilities of trouble to permit her to wander away from us in any way." Undoubtedly there are other eminent republicans who share Mr. Grosvenor's views, yet who are not quite so frank as the Ohio congressman in stating them.

The attorneys for the beef trust filed a demurrer to the proceedings in the federal court at Chicago on August 4. These attorneys contended that the prosecution has not stated such a case as would entitle it to the relief prayed for. The dispatches announce: "It is not expected that any further steps will be taken in the case by either side until October." Can it be possible that even the injunction proceedings were intended to be for campaign purposes only? Can it be possible that, after all, now that he is in a position to "shackle cunning as in the past we have shackled force," Mr. Roosevelt is not really anxious to forge the chains?

John Barschen, a New York butcher, understands trusts methods. Referring to the reported organization of the packing companies into one great trust, this New York butcher in an interview with a reporter, said: "They will combine. No doubt of it in my mind. The men who are sworn to enforce the laws appear to be afraid to perform their plain duty. Temporary benefit will accrue to the consumer, and in all probability forced retirement

from business for the small dealer. The packing combine can corner the food supply and for a time there will be a steady market with low prices. That will be the period when competition is being smothered. Then will come a boom in prices and vast profits squeezed out of the people."

The newspaper dispatches report that Mr. Roosevelt is entertaining a party of Boer agents at his home and that these Boers are being treated as members of the president's family. It is also pointed out that the president recently engaged in a shooting match with a number of Boer officers. This is all very gratifying to be sure, and yet one cannot avoid the wish that Mr. Roosevelt had displayed a little of this good feeling while the Boers were struggling for their republics. If Mr. Roosevelt had, for instance, invited the Boer envoys to lunch in the White house, the entertainment might have been of some practical value to the brave Dutchmen of South Africa.

In a recent interview Speaker Henderson declared that the republicans were never so united as they are today and that harmony prevails throughout the party leadership. Walter Wellman, the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald, in a dispatch to his paper, under date of August 12, said some things that are not calculated to sustain Mr. Henderson's claim. Mr. Wellman says: "Grave and reverend senators who in interviews pronounce for Roosevelt's nomination have been known to damn him most vigorously in private conversation. One senator who recently said in an interview that there would be no opposition to the president, who had earned the approval of the party and the country, privately declares that Mr. Roosevelt is a 'pernicious young upstart.'"

The state department submitted to Secretary of the Treasury Shaw whether the proposed bond issue by the Cuban government was lawful. Secretary Shaw has replied that it would be superfluous for him as secretary of the treasury to decide that the proposed loan would be in violation of the conditions imposed by the United States, and the fact is that the inhibition against such a loan exists in the Cuban constitution itself. This government will therefore probably hint to the Cuban officials that while they may read their authority in their constitution, they may learn their limitations in the Platt amendment. That the people of Cuba "ought to be free and independent" is well understood and this government has gone on record in attesting the fact; but that the people of Cuba "are free and independent" is a tale that may be unfolded to the marines.

It is reported that Generals Botha, DeWet and Delarey of South Africa will soon visit the United States and appeal to the American people to help the Boer widows, orphans, and burghers who were crippled or ruined by the war. These brave men will undoubtedly receive a cordial welcome in the United States and undoubtedly, also, they will obtain material assistance. It is significant, however, that the British colonists so often find it necessary to turn to America for relief. While Great Britain was pursuing its unholy war in South Africa, British subjects in India were starving and the people of the United States were required to save them from the ravages of famine; and now although the people of the Transvaal and of the Orange Free State have become, through the fortunes of war, subjects of Great Britain, now that Great Britain has asserted complete sov-

ereignty over their land, now that they need aid and assistance to re-establish themselves even in peaceful pursuits, they are required to appeal to the people of the United States for relief. They will not appeal in vain, even though a great many people will believe that England should repair the damage which British greed has accomplished in South Africa.

A New York butcher, John Barschen, a victim of the food trust, recently gave an interview to a New York newspaper reporter, and in one paragraph of that interview there is something pathetic. Mr. Barschen said: "When the newspapers were making that great fight against the beef trust they succeeded in making Roosevelt say that the ravages of the trust must be stopped. But the price of beef is higher than it ever was, and 'Roosevelt has done nothing, Knox has done nothing, and they never will do anything. Nobody appears to be big enough or strong enough or brave enough to do the right thing.' Roosevelt has done nothing, Knox has done nothing; nobody appears to be big enough or strong enough or brave enough to do the right thing! What a terrible commentary upon the courage, the intelligence, and the patriotism of republican leaders."

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