

Joseph Chamberlain announces that he will pay a visit to South Africa. This visit is made necessary by the complication of affairs under British administration. Mr. Chamberlain may find some satisfaction in the immense work of construction before him; but it would not be surprising if when he gazes upon the wreck produced by his policies, he has one or two pangs of conscience.

He Will Observe the Wreck.

Vice Admiral Charles Bressford in an interview recently given at Liverpool said that if Great Britain and the United States should unite, they could whip the rest of the world, "if the rest of the world wanted to fight." But, after all, are there not more important duties for civilized countries than that of whipping the rest of the world, or even of boasting that the conquest could be made if the rest of the world wanted to fight?

Fight, Fight, Fight,

Captain Richard P. Hobson in an address at a New York banquet said: "Let us build a great navy, bigger than any nation in Europe. As the navy introduced us to the Orient and the world, the navy alone can give us world influence and secure the peace of the world, and our peace." It is strange that the United States was able to prosper without an enormous navy! It must be interesting to the people of the republic to hear that "the navy alone can give us world influence."

Must Depend Upon Force.

It is related that when Booth Tarkington, the novelist, who was a republican candidate for the legislature, undertook to make his first political speech, he was attacked with a severe case of stage fright. He was unable to speak. In his next effort, however, Mr. Tarkington managed to say something and among the things he said was that the trust question was "not a political issue." It would perhaps have been better for Mr. Tarkington if he had been stricken with stage fright on his second effort.

Tarkington's Stage Fright

Since the crown prince of Siam has visited the United States, it is proposed by republican leaders that congress invite the young man's father to visit this country and become the guest of the nation. If memory is not at fault, it was proposed not very long ago to have congress invite the president of a republic, whose people were struggling to maintain their government, to visit this country. Congress, however, did not extend the invitation. Can it be possible that in the present day we have grown fond of kings and princes and lost our concern for simple republicans?

Can It be Possible?

Governor General Taft of the Philippines has announced that "the United States would retain the islands indefinitely with a view of educating the Filipinos to a state of self-government and other conditions which would enable them to decide whether they desired to become independent, or be made into a state like Canada or Australia under Great Britain." Why should the United States go to all this trouble to educate the Filipinos "to a state which would enable them to decide whether they desire to become independent or be made into a state like Canada or Australia under Great Britain?" The Filipinos, inspired by the history of our own forefathers, are right now able to decide that they desire to become independent. Why not grant them independence now?

Why Not Independence Now.

A reader of The Commoner sends in a report of a speech made by President Roosevelt in Kentucky in which he, the president, expresses the hope and the belief that there would not be another war in our time. And the editor was asked to reconcile the president's Kentucky speech with The Commoner's criticism of the West Point speech. If any reconciliation is necessary it falls upon the president rather than upon the editor of The Commoner. If the president hopes and believes that there will be no more wars in our time, and yet believes, as he said to the students at West Point, that a soldier should not only be will-

By Deeds Not By Words.

ing to fight, but anxious to fight, then the soldier must be essentially different from the civilian in his desires and hopes. It might be added, by way of parenthesis, that if the president were very anxious to prevent a war he would abandon the policy of imperialism which always has led to wars and always will be the cause of insurrection and bloodshed.

Abram S. Hewitt, of New York, one of the gentlemen who distinguished himself in Wall street circles by refusing to support the democratic ticket in 1896 and in 1900, espoused the cause of the coal barons in the recent coal strike. Mr. Hewitt pretended that he could not follow the Chicago platform because of its position on the money question; and yet it is significant that these gentlemen who were so averse to bimetalism are among the first to rush to the assistance of influential men who are seeking to do injustice to their fellows.

Mr. Hewitt With the Barons.

The Philadelphia North American in a burst of righteous indignation says: "The anarchistic coal operators have sown the wind. Now let them reap the whirlwind of a defied constitution, of the wrath of a condemned people—a perishing people that hears in the whistling winds the cruel couriers of a deadly winter." Well, why not let them reap the whirlwind? All that is necessary is for the republican president and the republican governor of Pennsylvania to summon sufficient courage and independence to set the whirlwind in motion.

Set It in Motion.

Congressman Fowler believes that the Fowler bill will become a law. Some other republican congressmen differ with Mr. Fowler and this recalls a story which the Dallas (Tex.) News says Mr. Fowler himself has frequently told. This is the story: "I had gone to see one of my constituents down in Union county," said the congressman, "and found him trying to give some medicine to a young son who had eaten too many green apples, while a Christian science neighbor was assuring the boy that there was nothing at all the matter with him. 'I think I ought to know,' groaned the boy; 'I've got inside information.'"

Mr. Fowler and His Story.

A barber at Cold Springs Harbor, N. Y., offered his services to a show, one of the features of which was the feat of shooting an apple from the head of any person who would volunteer. The apple was placed on the barber's head and the marksman began shooting at a distance of twenty feet. The first two shots missed, but the third struck the barber in the forehead and his death resulted within an hour. Such exhibitions as these are attractive simply because of the enormous risk taken by the man who stands in front of the gun. The risk is altogether too great. Life is too precious and society will do well to frown severely upon the practice.

A Very Bad Practice.

Referring to the statement showing the enormous profits of the steel trust, the Chicago Record-Herald says: "The one important tale of the statement is the tale of a virtual monopoly, which is coming more and more to dominate various lines of trade, and which represents a consolidated interest that is inimical to the people through the stifling of competition and the acquisition of a concentrated power that may be felt in national and state politics as well as in business." And yet the republican attorney general reported that it was not the part of wisdom to begin proceedings against this monopoly; and this consolidated interest that is inimical to the people makes liberal contributions to the republican campaign fund and every suggestion made that the shelter which this monopoly finds in the tariff be removed is met by prompt and bitter protest in republican circles.

Inimical to the People.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal says: "Imperialism never really existed. It was a nebulous figure, the creature of excited imaginations. It was a spirit called up from the vasty deep, impalpable, fugacious, and which eluded muscular grasp. Like the nephelococcygia of Aristophanes, it was designed to frighten the timorous and it was made to appear in its most fearsome guise by the master conjurers and thaumaturgists of the land, in Maine." The Commercial Appeal would find it difficult to convince the "citizens of Porto Rico," who, while being required to pay allegiance to the United States, are not permitted to identify themselves with this government, that "imperialism never really existed." This Memphis paper might also learn something to advantage by observing the conditions in the Philippines. If these policies do not represent imperialism, what do they represent?

If Not Imperialism What?

In a recent issue the Omaha Bee, a republican paper, said: "The validity of the Platt amendment to the Cuban constitution does not depend upon any action of the Cuban legislature or of the Cuban people, although the latter seem to be afflicted with this hallucination. It simply depends upon the power of the United States to enforce it. It is ultimately merely a question of physical force. It will be too bad if the Cubans shall fail to see the real point and misconduct themselves accordingly." It would indeed be too bad if the Cubans failed to "see the real point and misconduct themselves accordingly." And it would be too bad, also, if the United States undertook to exercise a power whose authority depended upon "merely the question of physical force." In the old-fashioned days American statesmen, very generally, held that right made might, rather than that might makes right.

The Des Moines Register and Leader, a republican paper, says: "Why should not Porto Ricans, Hawaiians and Filipinos have the same rights to travel about that residents of our own territories have? If the supreme court rules that they are aliens, and congress does not remedy their status a very serious barrier will be raised against any permanent friendly relations between them and the United States." The Porto Ricans and Filipinos are not given the same rights that residents of our territories have because Porto Rico and the Philippines are "colonies" and the people of these islands are governed according to the rules of imperialism rather than by the laws of a republic. The court has already ruled, in effect, that they are aliens for some purposes and that the territory is domestic territory for some purposes and foreign territory for other purposes; and the embarrassment of the situation is not so much that it raises a barrier against any permanent friendly relations between the colonists and the people of the United States, but rather that this policy of imperialism places the American people at war with the purest of American traditions and the best of American principles.

At War With Ourselves.

O. C. Barber, president of the Diamond Match company, which practically controls the match industry of the world, was recently interviewed by the Akron (O.) Beacon-Journal. In this interview Mr. Barber said that there was only one monopoly in the United States and that was the railroad monopoly. While Mr. Barber did not want his own trust interfered with, he was willing that the railroads should be regulated and on this point he said: "I have had experience at home, in England and in other countries in the matter of freight rates. One of the greatest advantages American manufacturers have over English manufacturers, is that the rates of freight in England run fully ten times as high on the great bulk of freight moved, as is charged by the railroads in the United States. The reason for this difference is that railroads of England are capitalized so high and their facilities for moving freight are so much less effective than railroading of the United States, that in order to pay the earnings on their capitalization the freight rates are like express charges in America. The London & Northwestern railroad is capitalized at \$650,000,000 per mile, and other roads in England at about the same rate. The size of our Liverpool factory is about equal to our Barberton factory, and freight charges out-going and incoming, in England, are as much in a month as from our Barberton factory in a year. These are startling figures, and as an observer of railroad methods, I am inclined to the opinion that it won't be many years before the capitalization of railroads in America will be watered up to somewhere near the capitalization of railroads in England, and the dear public will be asked to pay rates that will justify high dividends on the then capitalization of the railroads."

Water Curing the Railroads.