

DAVID STARR JORDAN ON BOER WAR

The President of Stanford University Says the English People Are the Victims of a Gigantic Political Bunco Game.

OAKLAND, January 12.—President David Starr Jordan of Stanford University made an address tonight at the First Unitarian church to a large audience on the situation in South Africa. He said that his sympathies were with England, because this war was forced upon the nation by politicians for political and commercial reasons, while the Boers are right.

"My sympathies are most decidedly with the English people," he said, "for I believe that they are the victims of a gigantic political bunco game. I have had some very painful letters from friends of mine in England—not from Radicals, but from members of the more conservative Tory party. I know the general feeling among them is that this war is something they were brought into entirely unawares. You see, it usually happens that monarchies bring about conflicts between the conscience of the people and certain acts carried on in the name of the people. We sometimes find monarchies in republics. We had such a conflict in the United States. I refer to slavery. It was to the interest of the South to have slaves. It was to the interest of the North to keep still about them, but the conscience of the people was finally aroused and the conflict was inevitable.

"The trouble with England is the temptation to develop the rabble. We have an example of this in making the good Queen the Empress of India and in the Queen's jubilee to impress the world with England's greatness. This was done to divert the minds of the people. When the English people demand a reform they get the Queen's jubilee or the Queen is given another title. I say it is possible to debauch the people with noise.

"The ancient roots of the present bluster were sown by James I. It has been carried on by Disraeli, Chamberlain and Cecil Rhodes, who is a sort of Boss Tweed of South Africa. A Russian writer has said that 'he who has drunk will drink.' England has drunk of power over her enemies and she probably can't help herself. To keep the British satisfied you must fire the British heart, so all along her frontier they have wars. When there is serious trouble at home they must stir up one of those distant wars.

"As a rule England never stirs up actual fighting if the people on the other side have clothes on.

"It is not England but Chamberlain, who has England in his power. His policy is to keep sore places along the borders of her possessions. That is why there is trouble between Canada and the

United States. That is why there was trouble in Venezuela. She is always willing to arbitrate, because, in nearly every case, arbitration with her means splitting the difference. England pats on the back the nation she can use, but never removes the cause of complaint. The basis of her policy is inequality among men. It has always been, and that is why our forefathers left England.

"The Englishman feels that he is a little better than anybody else. England's idea of a vigorous foreign policy is never to strike except when the enemy is down and has no powerful neighbor; and never to strike below the belt when the vulnerable points are above.

"Chamberlain says there must be English supremacy in South Africa. We could say the same about North America. Why hasn't a little people as many rights as a mighty people? The great thing that crushes a nation, or causes it to degenerate, is war. In our trouble with Canada over the fur seals the Premier said to me that he didn't care the snap of his finger for the whole fur question, but the question would be kept open. Now they want a port on the Lynn Canal in Alaska. The tribunal in Paris that decided the seal question was no more worthy of respect than the most contemptible police court. It was the same policy of overreach and then split the difference. The people who are talking to us now about brotherhood and cousinship are the same stable boy aristocrats that flouted at Abraham Lincoln. Is it surprising that they don't see why we won't join Canada and come in under the flag?

"Let me tell you that no country can be stable that is held by force; no land can be annexed permanently so long as it is necessary to wield the sword to hold it. South Africa was settled by the Dutch. When the Dutch moved over into the Transvaal the English claimed that they were still British subjects. This claim was admitted by the Dutch and then abandoned by the British. The claim of suzerainty has been revived by Cecil Rhodes and his ilk for certain purposes.

"This war has caused one side to say the Boers are corrupt, another side that the English are to blame, but I say it makes not a particle of difference which is right. There is no justification for a mighty nation to go to war with a weak one. All claims of British suzerainty were given up by Gladstone and I say he did the square thing by a little nation. I say the outsiders had no right to vote in the Transvaal. One of the causes of this war, it is said, was the cry, 'Remember Majuba Hill.'

"That cry and our 'Remember the Maine' were born of the passions of war and are therefore wrong. Other causes are that the Boers are liars, that they don't bathe once in a week, that they sing psalms through their noses and that

they are not Dutch, anyway, but French Huguenots. A better reason is that Rhodes demands the money in their mountains and Rhodes is a part of Chamberlain's scheme, or Chamberlain is a part of Rhodes' scheme, I can't say which.

"This war started with Dr. Jameson's raid, and although Jameson was punished the English would have followed and taken in the whole country if he had been successful. Chamberlain says they want racial equality. What about the great indignation over the arrival of Russian Jews in England?

"No doubt England will go to pieces before the end of the century, just as the great Spanish empire went to pieces in the last century. Kipling has said, 'Send forth the best ye breed' in a cynical mood, but that is what England is doing. The empire is sending forth to war the best it breeds year after year, and as time goes on it can breed only the second best. That is the cause of the downfall of Rome. The best blood was sent forth to fall on the battlefield, while the stable boys and the scullions remained at home, and it was from them that the present Italians descended.

"Every nation that has grown in strength has grown in peace, and every nation has gone down in arms. The policy of oppression must give way to sobriety, industry and justice."

WHEAT AND BREAD.

BOSTON, Jan. 24, 1900.

DEAR MR. MORTON:

If you think it worth while to print the enclosed or to refer to the importance of the subject in THE CONSERVATIVE please do so. There must be a deposit of potash corresponding to that of Stassfurt amid our great deposits of salt and alkalies which are so abundant in this country.

Have you seen Sir William Crooke's book on the Wheat Problem? He sticks to his dictum that the wheat-eaters will go hungry for lack of wheat in 1930. He rests his case on the statistics of C. Wood Davis of Kansas, and on the official figures of the Department of Agriculture. What do you say?

Yours very truly,

EDWARD ATKINSON.

Nitrogen.

Some years ago when the writer was investigating the nutrition of the soil, plant, beast and man, he was asked what would be the next great discovery most important to the welfare of mankind, to which he replied: A source of nitrogen at low cost. That problem is in process of solution by way of saving the vapors from coke ovens, iron furnaces, etc., and through the action of bacteria upon leguminous plants. An adequate supply of phosphates is assured for all time from Tennessee, North Car-