

"And every impartial and fair mind will understand  
 "that it was impossible for the South African Republic to grant  
 "political rights to foreigners. Why, the franchise in the  
 "Transvaal was denied to friendly foreigners of our own race  
 "—to the citizens of the Orange Free State. Why should  
 "we have granted it to Englishmen?"

The answer to Dr. Leyds' question is another. If it were impossible to grant political rights to foreigners why did not President Kruger at once say so at Bloemfontein; why did the Volksraad pass a law pretending to give the franchise to foreigners; why, later on, did Kruger offer them still fuller political rights, although upon conditions which he knew Great Britain would never accept? Will Dr. Leyds tell us what it is we hear so much about from his friends and our enemies of a great concession offered by Kruger and refused? Will Dr. Leyds further explain why he himself, a Hollander, was admitted to citizenship, while another Hollander was cast into prison for asking to be enfranchised?

And, at last, the Government which had been stubbornly immovable for years—which the British Commissioner found it impossible to make headway with on any point—became most impatient to know what proposals Mr. Chamberlain would submit in place of those which the Transvaal had unceremoniously withdrawn. They were told that they were being prepared and would be presented as soon as possible, but they could not wait. They expressed great surprise that there should be any delay in so simple a matter—so simple that five days' personal discussion between President Kruger and Sir Alfred Milner on one of the many differences between the two countries had been absolutely without result. They pretended to believe that England was gaining time for military preparations, although they were by no means neglecting that sort of thing themselves; and finally, as you know, they presented an ultimatum which left no alternative but war.

The ultimatum was dated just fourteen days after Mr. Chamberlain had announced his intention to make suggestions for the settlement of every existing difference between the two Governments, which interval was declared to be evidence of deliberate procrastination on the part of Mr. Chamberlain. Yet, when Mr. Chamberlain's request for a joint enquiry into the franchise then offered was laid before the Boer Government, ten days elapsed without the slightest sign of any reply, and when the answer came it was not a definite one, but a counter proposition. *It would be instructive if we could apply the Rule of Three to these two periods, and the weightiness of the problems respectively under consideration.*

It really looks as though the Boers never intended to tell the truth or to keep any promise they made.

Article IV. of the Convention of 1884 reads:

"The South African Republic will conclude no treaty  
 "or engagement with any State or nation other than the