

flouted her so frequently and so insultingly. The Boers of South Africa will soon realize, if they are still unaware of the fact, that no foreign power will ever be permitted to interfere between them and the British influence which will ultimately and inevitably draw them into the British empire. South Africa may some day become independent, as Canada or Australia may, but the Transvaal will never become a separate independent State.

The full text of Lord Rosebery's Edinburgh speech has reached America, and while it shows that his utterances were

frank, it shows also that they were indiscreet. He stated that he had resigned the leadership to pave the way for unity in the Liberal party, but if that were his real reason he should have avoided public explanations and trusted to time to clear up the apparent mystery. We know something in Canada of the unpleasantness which may be caused by similar explanations under similar circumstances from a leader who has failed. The time which has elapsed since Lord Rosebery delivered his speech is very short, but it is long enough to show that he was very much "off" on the Armenian question, and that not only Mr. Gladstone, but also Lord Salisbury and Sir William Harcourt had a keener appreciation of the real character of the crisis. The truth seems to be either that Lord Rosebery was needlessly afraid of a European war, or that, like the late Lord Beaconsfield, he was affected by some kind of pro-Turkish sympathy in which the Liberals have no share. Either explanation, if correct, is enough to prove that he was an impossible Liberal leader.

Henry George

One of the peculiarities of the late Presidential campaign was the fervour with which Henry George threw himself into it on the Democratic side. It seems strange that a propagandist who makes his sociological crusade intensely ethical should be fatuous enough to turn against himself the ethical spirit of the nation which revolted at the proposal to pay all creditors, home and foreign, in depreciated currency. Mr. George may say that he believed the United States could, without an international concert, maintain freely coined silver at a ratio of sixteen to one, but not even Mr. Bryan contended that this could be done without a preliminary commercial crash. Mr. George has further discredited himself by his persistent and senselessly sanguine predictions of Democratic success. Almost on the eve of polling day he put himself on record with the assurance that Bryan was certain to carry the State of New York. It is difficult to believe that he had so convinced himself, unless one is prepared to attribute to him a lack of insight which would lower him greatly in the general scale of intelligence. This was a good election for the advocates of the single tax to keep out of, for reasons which will be found ably stated in another part of this issue by one of their most skilful publicists.

Untrustworthy Ironclads

An old-fashioned wooden man-of-war might be penetrated by a cannon ball, but it would never sink without some such injury. The modern ironclad has a bad habit of going down without provocation, apparently as the result of overweight and unwieldiness. One of the great war-vessels of the United States navy, the Texas, sank the other day at her dock, and investigation has brought to light some curious facts which will increase the prevalent impression that such huge structures are unseaworthy. The breaking of a sea-valve allowed the water to rush into one of her engine-rooms, but the

water-tight door between it and the next one was promptly closed. The water, from some mysterious cause, not only filled the second engine-room, but poured into the magazine, which was separated from it by a continuous bulkhead without a door opening in it. This means that the mere breaking of such a valve would undoubtedly have caused the foundering of the vessel if she had been at sea. The investigation has shown that the bulkheads are so tight that under the pressure of water they spring and cause great leaks. In the case of the Texas the water not only passed round the edges of the bulkheads, but through seams in the metal of which they are made.

The Monroe Doctrine.

Until recently the Monroe doctrine was intended simply to prevent European nations from increasing their territorial possessions in America or from acquiring new ones; it has by the settlement of the Venezuela controversy been greatly extended in its scope. The United States having insisted that Great Britain should submit her claims to arbitration, and Great Britain having agreed to do so, the former nation becomes responsible to the latter for Venezuela's acceptance of the award, whatever it may be. This is a material extension of the original doctrine, but a great deal more is fairly implied. Should Venezuela at any time hereafter invade British Guiana, the United States will be responsible for any damage therefrom resulting, unless she is prepared to recede from her present position and allow Great Britain without protest to inflict punishment even to the extent of appropriating territory. In fact, the United States will henceforth be responsible for the way in which all the central and southern states of this continent behave themselves toward all the great powers of Europe. She must see that they keep the peace unless she is prepared to pay the damages. Whether this sudden and tremendous extension of the Monroe doctrine is or is not a good thing for the United States, it certainly is very advantageous to Great Britain. She has had chronic trouble with half-civilized and turbulent neighbours whom this self-constituted protector will now be forced to police in her interest. It may fairly be considered doubtful whether Secretary Olney read all this into his own despatches when he was writing them, or into President Cleveland's message when he was prompting it; it is doubtful, also, whether the people of the United States will not tire of their gratuitously assumed task; but there can be no doubt of the substantial advantage obtained by Great Britain in receiving such security in exchange for the mere consent to arbitrate claims which may yet be decided in her favour.

* * *

The Tariff Inquiry.

AN investigation of the working of the customs tariff of Canada has been commenced by a committee of the Dominion Executive Council, the members of which are Sir Richard Cartwright, Hon. W. S. Fielding, and Hon. William Patterson, who hold respectively the positions of Minister of Trade and Commerce, Minister of Finance, and Controller of Customs. The avowed purpose of the inquiry is to ascertain how the tariff may be safely and advantageously improved by legislation during the approaching session of Parliament, and the method resorted to is hearing statements in different cities from deputations which represent the various industries likely to be affected.

The course thus adopted is not without precedent. At all times when tariff reform has been on the tapis, deputa-