



him. Mr. Fischer, you have been making charges against the British in Cape Colony of illiberality in election matters and trying to show how much more liberal than theirs was Mr. Kruger's franchise offer to the Outlanders. Is it not a fact, Mr. Fischer, that you personally voted in two different constituencies in Cape Colony at the last Parliamentary election?" After some hesitation, Mr. Fischer had to admit that he had so voted. "Now," said this gentleman, "you were not born a British subject nor were you ever naturalized, were you?" and Mr. Fischer was again forced to admit the truth of both of these queries. The gentleman then said to him: "This being the case, you voted in a British country for members of Parliament without either being a British subject by birth or having taken the oath of allegiance, and hundreds upon hundreds of your fellow-Boers have done the same thing for years, and yet, knowing all this, we British Cape Colonists have never objected to your so voting or sought to try to deprive you of the privilege." Turning to the Americans present, he said: "Gentlemen, if you will kindly contrast this liberal treatment of the Boers in Cape Colony in franchise matters with Mr. Kruger's proposals to Sir Alfred Milner at the Bloemfontein Conference, you will at once see the utter hypocrisy of the Boer contention that they offered the Outlanders a fair or even reasonable chance to become citizens of the Transvaal Republic, as many were willing to do." The wide-awake Americans at once caught on to the point, much to the discomfiture of Mr. Fischer.

THE BY-LAW recently passed by the Toronto City Council, making it compulsory for retail merchants to close their stores not later than seven o'clock in the evening, merits more than a passing remark, inasmuch as in our opinion, it most decidedly interferes with the true liberty of the subject, which is not only the birthright, but the proud boast of every British citizen. We cannot see how the Council has any right whatever to say to retailers, "you must cease doing business at seven o'clock every evening, under penalty of a fine." While such a by-law does not affect the large stores, which nearly all close at six o'clock anyway, it does affect, and that adversely, the small places of business, which are run mainly by the proprietors alone, or perhaps with the assistance of one or two clerks. To the man who attends exclusively to his own store it seems particularly hard as he often makes the bulk of his day's sales after the large down-town stores are closed. We can see neither rhyme or reason in the City Council compelling such a merchant to close at seven o'clock if he wants to work, and we are satisfied that if a test case were made and carried through the courts the by-law will be found *ultra vires*. It seems to us that the City Council has just as much right to prevent a man from working in his garden in the evening as working in his store, and the nonsense of the proposal would become speedily apparent were they to attempt to follow this paternal legislation to its legitimate conclusion and prevent labor of any kind after certain hours. It seems to us that every man has the inalienable right to work as many hours as he pleases so long as he does not interfere with anyone else, and looked at from this standpoint and also that such legislation could only be enforced in restraint of trade and to the occasional inconvenience of the public, it seems to us to be a very unwise as well as a very foolish piece of civic legislation. We notice that almost a similar view to the one we have expressed has been recently voiced by so great a statesman as Lord Salisbury, Premier of Great Britain. Referring to similar legislation passed in England, the Premier pronounces it to be unjust and unwise, and an interference with the liberty of the subject and of the freedom of trade which should exist in every community. The present indications are, that, so far as Toronto is concerned, this civic by-law will be more honored in the breach than in the observance.

THE FARCE originated by the *Philadelphia North-American* newspaper in sending a memorial from the school children of Philadelphia by a special messenger boy to President Kruger at Pretoria, will go down into history as one of the most absurd jokes of the nineteenth century. It appears that so far from this childish schoolboy demonstration being spontaneous, it was the result of a

carefully-prepared scheme for the purpose of booming the circulation of the above-named Philadelphia newspaper, which not only paid all the expenses connected with the getting up of the message and special messenger boy, but also sent along one of its own newspaper staff to chronicle the historic meeting of President Kruger and the Yankee messenger boy. This newspaper historian faithfully executed his trust and cabled back to his journal so as to give them a scoop on the news, the details of the momentous event. The messenger boy and his newspaper keeper reached Pretoria just as President Kruger and his Government were in the middle of their preparations for flight. The occasion was so important, however, that the aged President at once suspended all these preparations, gathered his civil and military advisers around him, and proceeded to the legislative hall in order to receive the Philadelphia deputation as befitted their rank and station. The scene belongs to farce comedy rather than to history. The moment was impressive. The correspondent refers eloquently to the rumbling of ox-carts, and suggests that the burghers were fleeing from Pretoria in expectation that the British were already close to the capital. Amidst all this turmoil and confusion the correspondent of the *Philadelphia North-American* enters the legislative hall, having in tow the despatch boy, who is travelling as the advertising agent of John Wanamaker's journal. President Kruger and Secretary Reitz are compelled by the laws of politeness to pause and serve as bill-boards for a fake advertising scheme. The messenger boy, in what is described as a brief but manly speech, handed him the album. The illuminated assurance that so many thousand American schoolboys sympathized with the Boers must have been of exceedingly great value to President Kruger in this hour of trial. The resolution, in the form of an album, with the autograph of each sympathizing schoolboy, may have cheered the retiring firm of Kruger & Reitz, but did not inebriate them with the strength to stay and fight the British. It affected the President to such an extent, however, so the chronicler avers, that the tears trickled slowly down his nose as he thanked the American schoolboys for their message of sympathy which he knew was but a reflex of the sentiment of their elders, and he deputed the messenger to convey to them all and sundry his paternal blessing. Then, blowing his nose and resuming his faithful pipe which he had taken from his mouth while addressing the delegation, he slowly and mournfully departed from the scene of his former triumphs and glories. *Sic transit gloria mundi*.

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE, momentous events have happened in South Africa. On May 28th Lord Roberts, on behalf of the British Government, formally annexed the Orange Free State to the British Empire, the same to be known henceforth as the "*Orange River Colony*." In military matters, it has been one of the most eventful in the history of the war. By vigorous marching and hard fighting, Lord Roberts has driven the Boer armies back pell mell out of the Orange Free State, captured Johannesburg and the celebrated gold mines of the Rand intact, captured also Pretoria the capital of the Transvaal, and driven President Kruger and his Government out into the country to scurry their capital around in a palace car as long as they are able to hold the railway. Lord Roberts has also liberated all but 900 of the British prisoners captured since the commencement of the war who were confined at Watervaal, near Pretoria. Mafeking, with its heroic commander, Baden-Powell, and its gallant garrison, has been successfully relieved, and the entire western and southern parts of the Transvaal Republic has been taken possession of by the British troops. In Natal, General Buller has defeated the Boer army pitted against him and driven them successfully from one fortified position after another, including those historic landmarks of Boer prowess, Majuba Hill and Langs Nek. The Langs Nek tunnel, which the Boers thought they had blown up so effectively as to prevent its use for months, has been cleared out and repaired by the British engineers, and trains are now running regularly from Durban through to Heidelberg, and probably will go through to Pretoria in a few days. This new line of railway will give Lord Roberts a means of obtaining supplies less than one-half as long as the one from Cape Town which he has hitherto been